

Forestry

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



THE NATIONAL LIVESTOCK MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 1943

G. H. Q.

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AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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Volume XXV

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Number 4

STORY OF A RANCH

By HUMBERT REES

THIS IS THE STORY OF A RANCH; but, more than that, it is the story of the cattle industry in central western Colorado.

In the west ends of Rio Blanco and Garfield counties, bounded on the north by the White River, on the south by the Book Cliff rimrock overlooking the Colorado River, on the east by the Meeker-Rifle "Government" road, and extending west into Utah, lies an upland range country famous to cattlemen as the Piceance Creek district. It is a rolling plateau, in the summer range area between 7,000 and 9,000 feet in altitude; a region of long sagebrush-covered ridges wooded on their north slopes with clumps of spruce and aspens and drained by creeks cut through the oil-shale cover. In their lower reaches, these creek-canons broaden out to give room for home-ranch headquarters, their corrals and hay fields. Most important of these streams is Piceance Creek with its tributaries; also into White River run Yellow and Douglas creeks. Draining the southern slopes are Parachute and Roan creeks.

In the summer of 1885 the millions of acres of this vast domain had seldom heard the tramping footsteps of the white man and his animals. Until then a part of the Ute Reservation, it had known only the moccasin-whisper of the Indian and the clatter of his pony in pursuit of the countless deer and occasional elk and buffalo that fattened on its lush grasses.

But that summer the region was thrown open to settlement. The story of those vacant miles of splendid range was noised about the state; and among those whom it reached was a young bookkeeper in the roaring mining camp of Leadville. George M. Howard, a Boston boy who had answered the call of the West from the placid backwaters of Massachusetts, had tired of adding columns of figures. He bought himself a saddle horse, totaled up his savings, and set out across the backbone of the continent. When he arrived at Piceance Creek, he rode the country until he found a patch of ground to his liking: rye-grass covered bottoms surrounding a tiny log cabin about

three miles up a tributary, Dry Fork, from main Piceance Creek.

The cabin had been built and lived in by a white trapper and mountain man, "Black" Wilson. In the days when the region was still in the reservation, Wilson had run an Indian trading post near Coyote Basin, just outside the reservation line, and later was establishing another post in Axial Basin when he was brushed by the fringes of the Thornburg battle and driven north to Bear River. After troops were billeted in Meeker, he sought the solitude he preferred in the cabin on Piceance Creek. But with the returning years strangers in increasing numbers straggled up the creeks, fencing the bottoms and building cabins of their own. And Wilson was a man who needed elbow room and loneliness. One unknown morning he shouldered his gun and a haunch of venison that had hung beneath the eaves, closed the door of his one-room shack, and disappeared into the deeper wilderness. In this abandoned canon Howard located a 160-acre homestead.

However it had seemed to Wilson, the country still was a long way from being a tamed and settled land. Only six years before, in 1879, the White River Utes had revolted from the benign despotism of Agent N. C. Meeker, massacred Meeker and the other eight white men at the agency, abducted the white women, and ambushed and handled roughly the cavalry command of Major Thornburg sent to rescue Meeker. In 1885 the Utes still regarded the Piceance Creek country as their hunting grounds and followed the deer in their spring and fall migrations through the area, trailing past Howard's new homestead. Old Chief Colorow, one of the ringleaders of the Meeker uprising, was a particular friend of Howard's and stayed the night with him only three days before his death.

THE DAY OF THE LONGHORN

In October of 1885 Howard went to the plains town of Deertrail, east of Denver, and bought 100 head of good Kansas Shorthorn cows. With the help of two others, he trailed them across the mountains to his new ranch, by way of Bailey, Kenosha Pass, through South Park and Fairplay, over Mosquito Pass to Leadville, across Tennessee Pass and down the Eagle and Colorado rivers. Cattle and men lived off the country.



Picture courtesy Louis Love

Roundup camp in October, 1914, at the mouth of Bull Gulch on Willow Creek 12 miles south from its confluence with Piceance Creek.



Picture taken by A. G. Wallihan; courtesy George M. Howard

The log house built by George Howard for his bride. The house still remains as part of the ranch buildings of the Square S headquarters. Howard's son, Roy, is standing in the door.

This cow herd of 100 head was one of the first to hit Piceance Creek. But other cowmen had been looking at that grass. All the next spring bawling trail herds, 1,000 head or more to a bunch, rolled their long dust clouds across the mountains until by midsummer of 1886 some 60,000 head had been turned loose to roam and graze the Piceance ridges. These cattle came from the Great Plains and were mostly of the Texas and "southern" type, gaunt, many-colored, rangy longhorns. Two of the biggest operators that located on the Creek were Billy Wilson and his boys, former Texans who came to the range the same fall as Howard, and the L O 7, a Meeker outfit owned by Al Lloyd. Each of these ran in the neighborhood of 5,000 cattle.

Meeker, situated something more than 20 miles up White River from the mouth of Piceance Creek, was the supply center for the whole district. Originally an Indian agency, then a quiet cavalry post, it soon developed into a wide-open cattle town, with a pair of saloons in every block.

The big cattle outfits in those days consisted of the ranch headquarters surrounded by a few owned and fenced fields where a little hay was put up for the horses and such thin cattle as were handy and could not otherwise winter through, of a competent crew of riders and a sufficient caviya of horses (averaging 10 to a rider), and cattle by the thousands.

At that time most of the cattle wintered out. Even in times of heavy snowfall the south slopes of the lower ridges in the cedar-and-pine belt stayed open all winter, and the creek bottoms and the lower White River country were open winter range. Not until a flood of homesteaders took up and fenced the bottom lands and overgrazing and overgrazing of the range left little feed for the hungry cattle did winter losses become prohibitive. In 1889 the penalty was ex-

acted for that horde of cattle that poured into the country in 1886. A heavy winter that followed a dry summer cost some of the big outfits as high as 60 per cent of their herds. Howard, a smaller owner who raised a good acreage of hay, held his loss to 10 per cent.

As soon as Howard had filed on his new ranch he began to improve it. He fenced up the bottom land on the creek, surveyed and built irrigation ditches, and began to cut hay. First year of his residence on his new property he cut, with a new mower hauled in from Meeker, 40 loads of rye grass, a tall, tough western bunch grass that thrived in the level bottoms. Howard traded work with Bob Reigan, a rancher with headquarters on main Piceance Creek not far from the mouth of Dry Fork. He still remembers what hard cutting he had in the thick, tangled rye grass.

Howard sowed timothy among the rye grass bunches and soon had heavy-yielding irrigated haylands; before he sold out he was putting up 250 tons of alfalfa and timothy. With this he wintered approximately 500 head of cattle. He spent most of the winters riding, gathering the thin and weak animals and throwing them in to the home place, where he kept a man to feed. The strong cattle wintered out on the south points; even the old cows were turned back on the hill after the calves had been weaned.

PROFIT AT 3 CENTS A POUND

Howard built his herd mostly from his original hundred head of Shorthorn cows, although he occasionally added to it by purchasing a few head from his neighbors; before he sold out he was branding 225 calves. A few statistics will illustrate the cattle-handling habits of those days: He shipped his steers as threes, at which age they averaged around 1,100 pounds, and held over the lighter end to make them weigh 1,400 pounds at four. Steers of that weight brought \$2.75 to \$3

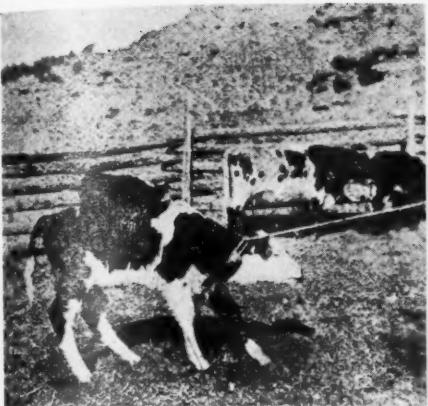
a cwt., and cattlemen made money—proof of the little expense those cattle were under.

Howard generally made two shipments during the fall round-up. Before 1889 he trailed his cattle with one of the big outfits to the Union Pacific at Rawlins, Wyoming; that year the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad penetrated the southern country as far as New Castle.

Howard kept one man the year around to irrigate, help hay, and feed. He did all his own riding, by himself in the winter, and with the spring branding and fall beef round-ups. On his range the L O 7 ran the round-up wagon; in fact, in the busiest seasons they kept four wagons on the range with 150 horses in each caviya. The crews averaged about 1,000 head of calves branded a day. For lack of space, I must gloss over the story of the round-ups, but any cattleman can imagine the heat, dust, smoke, noise, and confusion that swirled around the bunch ground in those hard-working days.



George M. Howard, about 1895.



Picture taken by Ernest Howard; courtesy George M. Howard

Type of cattle run by George Howard. They were heavy cattle, a cross of Hereford bulls on Shorthorn cows.

After Howard had batched for six years (although, he says, since he was riding most of the time he ate many of his meals with the other settlers), he wearied of his lonely life and brought back a wife from Leadville, a Missouri girl who had been Miss Anna Judd. They lived together on the ranch—incidentally, 35 miles from Meeker and 60 from Rifle, the nearest towns—until 1904, when they sold the land to J. N. Neal, a Missouri cattleman moving into the country, shipped their cattle to Kansas pastures to sell the following fall, and moved to Rifle. About 150 head of range strays were sold to Hays brothers, neighboring cowmen.

George Howard and his wife are living in Rifle today, where he, although 83 years old, is still hale and hearty and takes an active interest in town, business, and lodge activities.

With the coming of "Joe" Neal into the story of the ranch, the picture changes. Until then it had been relatively small among larger neighbors and built by the natural increase from Howard's original 100 head. Joe was a different type; he believed in expanding. When he came there he said, "If I can

sell my steers for 4 cents and my cows and heifers for 3, I'll get rich;" and he did.

As was mentioned, Neal bought the original 160 acres from Howard in February of 1904. He also took a five-year lease on an adjoining homestead owned by Ernest Howard, a brother of George, which he bought before the lease expired. Further additions to his land holdings during his years on the Creek included the Bob Reigan interests on Dry Fork and the Foote, Burch, and V T places. He eventually controlled 13 miles of creek bottoms, including a two-and-a-half-mile stretch on main Piceance Creek.

BETTERING THE HERD

To stock his land Neal started with 52 head of yearling Hereford heifers shipped in from Oregon. These he bought from the regionally famous M. K. Parsons through Arthur Critchlow, at that time the manager of the big Keystone ranch in Coyote Basin, north of White River from the Piceance Creek mouth. A footnote to local history: Critchlow is legendary in the White River country as one of the very first to bring cattle into that district.

To these heifers Neal added good native cows bought locally until with his natural increase he had built up a cow herd of 1,200 head. This meant that he kept between 2,000 and 3,000 head on the range. The calves were not marketed until they were threes, averaging at that age about 1,050 pounds.

By 1915 Neal noticed that his expense in handling his cow herd was steadily increasing in proportion to his receipts, and he changed his type of operation. He disposed of his breeding stock and went to New Mexico to buy yearling steers. These he imported one spring, double-summersed them, and sent them to market as threes.

His first shipment of so-called "southern" steers averaged 1,073 pounds, but as a rule they crossed the scales at a somewhat lighter weight than the natives.

This practice of shipping in steers, then prevalent on the Creek, he continued until he sold out to the present owner of the ranch. The transaction was completed in 1926, but by 1921 he had begun to reduce his operations. In 1921, also, a second tragedy hit the grasslands of the Creek. This was the influx of what Neal calls the "tramp steer men." These were cattlemen with little or no improved ranch property, supplied with steers by overstocked commission firms, who moved in on the established ranch owners and flooded the range with a steer surplus. In 1921 the tramp steer men put 20,000 head in the Piceance Creek country; that fall Neal's steers weighed 970 pounds, 100 pounds less than five years before. These figures indicate what happened to the range.

Three times overstocking has damaged the Piceance grass. In this connection it must be remembered that that range, being public domain, was open to any stockman who could force his herds or flocks onto it until some regulation was provided by the Colorado Rees-Oldland range law.

First damage was done by the original heavy influx after the range was thrown open to settlement; the second, by this period of the itinerant and propertyless cattle handlers. The landed cowmen, beginning to realize the depressing effect of this man-made range deterioration on the value of their property, started looking toward a plan to prevent such periodic overgrazing.

And then in the middle twenties the third stock deluge hit. This was an invasion by a combination of local and Utah sheepmen, who bought out occasional ranch properties, made judicious use of the 640-acre grazing homestead law, and sent their bands in ever-widening waves across the range. The cattle-men of the Creek discovered that, not only to keep their industry from being squeezed completely out of the district, but to save the range from irreparable damage, some sort of regulation had to be instituted. From their efforts came



Headquarters buildings on the ranch, during Joe Neal's ownership.

Picture courtesy J. N. Neal

the Colorado Rees-Oldland law, providing for state regulation of grazing on the public domain, and in 1936 the federal law establishing the Grazing Service, sponsored by Western Colorado's Representative Edward T. Taylor.

But to return to the story of our ranch: Joe Neal handled his cattle and his property with as little winter feeding as possible. His first year on the place he started his winter ride about Christmas and finished on the first of March. He fed the first load of hay to a bunch of cows and calves on February 14 and did not plan on feeding more than a third of his cattle throughout the winter. When he began running cattle on the Creek it took no more than a quarter of a ton of hay per head to winter them. Down the years this proportion steadily increased, until by the time he quit the cattle business he had to have a ton of hay per head in the stack.

At the time when he was running about 3,000 head, he kept two steady riders in addition to himself and hired three steady men on his ranches. At shipping season and during haying he of course needed a bigger crew. During the years he was running cows he kept his she-stuff in the Little Hills, up Dry Fork east of his home ranch, and his steers on the headwaters of Yellow Creek by the Cathedral Bluffs, south and west of his ranches. He shipped from Rifle until a new trail, blasted from the rimrock down into Roan Creek, cut many miles from the beef drive by giving the Piceance Creek stock access to DeBeque.

This description of Neal's methods of operation in contrast to those of Howard illustrates two changing and evolving tendencies: first, in the type of cattle on the Creek, and, second, in the way of handling them.

The first cattle into the country, as I have noted, were of the longhorn type, with occasional infusions of Shorthorns and Herefords. Parenthetically, the P L ranch also tried a bunch of Angus blacks, but because of the type of range—long distances between water and grass—found them temperamentally unfitted for the necessary foraging. The basic she-stock the cowmen bred to well-blooded Hereford bulls, until by Neal's years on the Creek Piceance became known as a producer of good Hereford feeders. This building-up process has been continued until last fall the Square S (present operators of the ranch) scored a long-term top on their calves at the Denver market.

MORE LAND, FEWER CATTLE

The other change, in the method of handling the cattle, has been from the original "many cattle and little property" to almost a preponderance in the other direction. This has meant several things to the Creek: a reduction both in the number of cattle on the range and in the number of cattlemen, indicating a greater investment in land and less in cattle; and accompanying this (remembering that

the cattle pay the way for the land) a decided increase in the cost of production per cow.

Another innovation came about in the method of riding. While George Howard was on the Creek and during most of Joe Neal's residence the round-up system was used. In the spring calf branding and the fall beef gather the several owners provisioned a chuck wagon, turned their spare horses into the cavya, and rode the range together from Utah to the rim above the Government road. The daytime beef gatherer was night-herded and held until 600 or 700 had been collected. These were handed over to a trail crew and started for the railroad, and the round-up moved on up the big ridge. Then the individual outfits began to build summer camps on the range, put up horse corrals, and fence beef pastures. In the war year 1918 the last true round-up that pulled a chuck wagon clear to the eastern rim came up the ridge, and since that fall the individual owners and pools have ridden from their own camps and exchanged strays. Nineteen hundred and eighteen, too, was the last year of the big three- and four-year-old steers; the war-born demand for meat siphoned off the heavy animals and the Creek has since shipped yearlings and twos.

By the 1920's Joe Neal realized that the day of the big money in Piceance Creek cattle was over. The post-war slump hit the market hard. He had made his stake on the ranch; he had worked hard and deserved a rest. He began to dispose of his holdings, and in 1926 sold the last of them to the Square S Land

and Cattle Company, present owners of the ranch.

He and Mrs. Neal are now living in Meeker, where he looks after his investments and is chairman of the county selective service board. In summer they move to their upriver home and game park east of Meeker; there Joe is proud to introduce friends and visitors to his pet deer, antelope, elk, and buffalo.

The present owners of the Square S were first represented by Clarence and Kelly Snyder, brothers who took up a 320-acre homestead in Corral Gulch, a tributary of Dry Fork. Backed financially by their uncle, Harry Snyder, a Chicago man with interests in the oil industry, they began to acquire the Neal properties. By 1926 they had completed the transactions and ran the ranches until 1929, when the present manager, M. J. Shearer, took over. The ranch is now a closed corporation under the ownership of Shearer and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Snyder.

In the early days on the Creek, Manager Shearer believes, it was not only possible but the general rule that a cattleman could make money on a ranch holding of no more than 160 acres. But with the years, times and economic conditions have changed, and from a number of factors more real property has become a requisite of a successful cow outfit. Probably the two most important of these factors are the shrinking and deterioration of available winter and spring ranges, which requires heavier feeding and more hay per head of cattle, and the homesteading, fencing, and tightened regulation of the summer range, which means that, in order to be protected against economically critical cuts in the number of its cattle allowed on the range, each ranch should control part of its summer pasture lands.

CONSOLIDATION AND EXPANSION

Accordingly, the Square S management has continued the previously noted trend toward consolidating and expanding land holdings. The company now owns outright 31,000 acres of land and leases an additional 100,000 acres, including all of Dry Fork, most of lower Piceance, and a good part of Yellow Creek. In addition to the owned and leased range the company has been granted extensive permits on the public domain by the Grazing Service. Of the acres owned or leased by the Square S some 8,000 acres are farmed, the principal crop being hay, both native and alfalfa. An average of 4,000 tons is put in the stack each year.

The cattle that are the reason for these far-flung acres came from a foundation herd purchased from local cattlemen Violet and Delaney. Additional purchases and natural increase have brought the number of cattle run by the Square S to upward of 3,000 head. Between 1,500 and 2,000 are marketed every year. They are sold both on the central markets and through order buyers, and are shipped from DeBeque and Rifle.

Pledge Your Conscience to Your Country

*"I shall buy no more meat
than my ration stamps
entitle me to . . .
. . . because the rest
of the meat is needed
for the war."*

HELP SPEED VICTORY

Condemning the black market as one of the greatest evils of the day, the American Meat Institute has formulated the above pledge which it asks meat consumers at home to heed for the sake of our armed forces. Our boys in the service need, as an average, twice as much meat as they ate at home, and none of this meat must be sidetracked through illegal purchases. Follow four rules: Buy no meat without stamps; give or sell no stamps to others; destroy unused stamps; look on ration stamps as your way of releasing meat to the armed forces.

The cattle are handled to a certain extent according to Joe Neal's system of keeping his she-stuff in the Little Hills and summering his beef in the Yellow Creek and Cathedral Bluffs region. During the winter all cattle are fed. In November the cowboys begin to turn the drift from the mountain into the meadows; it is often almost the first of March before the last stragglers are rounded up. Calves are weaned about the first of December. The pasture in the meadows generally lasts until January, when the first hay is hauled out. About April 15 the movement back on to the range begins, with the yearlings and dry stuff; by May 15 the last of the cows and calves have been turned out.

The ranch customarily markets its product as yearlings; a few loads of twos also are held over. For the past three years some calves have been shipped, because, as Manager Shearer notes, during this period the midwestern farming belt has preferred to give its cheap feed to calves and the demand for that class has been extensive. The older cows of the canner type, aged from 9 to 12 years, are gathered and shipped at weaning time.

To operate this beef factory the Square S requires 150 head of horses. Four steady cowhands are kept on the pay roll under the direction of Cattle Foreman Walter McQuaid, a former Rangely cowman. On the ranches a force of eight to nine men is maintained at all times; during the summer haying season three crews are run. In the winter the cattle are split into smaller bunches between the ranches, each man being apportioned between 600 and 700 head to feed.

2,000,000 POUNDS A YEAR

The story draws to its close. We began it with 160 acres; we end it with vastly more. And these wide holdings were built from original filings of no more than 160 acres apiece, proved up on by the sweat and enterprise of the early cattlemen, consolidated and eventually combined into a cattle factory that produces 2,000,000 pounds of potential beef each year.

The people who live on the Creek and their ways of doing things have changed. The grandson's fast-stepping pickup truck replaces the early cowman's lumbering four-horse supply wagon; the radio shatters the canon's silence and brings today across the doorstep; the tractor roars in the hay meadow; even the cow-pony rides to work in his trailer.

But the long-hewn ridges do not change. Into the dust of distance and beyond the rimmed horizon they reach, and hearken to the remembered tales of the passing seasons. The rains come, and the snows return, the frost and the burning sun. Each spring the wobble-legged calves peer at the new and disturbing world; each fall the blocky little steers clatter down from the mountain. And the good grass grows on Dry Fork. That, to a cattleman, is close enough to heaven.

MEAT MANAGEMENT

A BROCHURE, ENTITLED "THAT Our Boys Shall Have Meat," has just been published by the Livestock and Meat Council, which is composed of 100 livestock and meat organizations. The booklet gives a comprehensive view of the difficulties confronting meat producers in supplying the needs of our armed forces, without overlooking the requirements of the civilian population of the nation and our Allies through lend-lease.

Harder work, longer hours, more money, and what the booklet refers to as "porterhouse" pocketbooks make the civilian demand for meat far greater than ever before. The armed services, however, must have the insurance of meat stock piles at strategic points. Under rationing, the civilian share is about 15,000,000,000 of the approximately 23,000,000,000 pounds of meat which the government expects will be available in the next 12 months, but it is reliably estimated that the civilian population would consume about 5,000,000,000 pounds more if they could get it, although it has been established that nutritional requirements are being amply filled. Our combined fighting Allies take every pound of meat we can spare, and they could use far more.

The purpose of the pamphlet is to tell about a program that has been worked out by the 100 livestock and meat organizations and how it would function. It is a meat management plan which has been offered to the government for achieving a constant balance between supply and demand for meat. The plan would work this way:

1. The amount of meat required by the government, out of the total supply, is established.
2. This meat is made available to the government by informing consumers through rationing how they should adjust their buying of each kind of meat

in order to leave the government what it needs.

3. The flow of meat to places where it is needed to satisfy consumer ration points is insured by the operation of competitive price differentials.

To implement the management plan, the War Meat Board was created. The board is composed of representatives of the War Food Administration, the armed forces, the government's meat price and rationing division, lend-lease, and experienced men from each major branch of the meat packing industry. An advisory committee of the board represents every phase of the livestock and meat producing business.

The booklet is a plea for another deal for the livestock and meat industry. OPA regulations have so far done little more than mess up meat production in an industry which really has a great capacity for production even now.

RECORD MEAT SUPPLY

"Meat Production, Four Years of Record Supply; Next Year—?" is the title of a booklet by F. E. Mollin, executive secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, which is just off the press. It discusses the paradox of shortage of meat when livestock inventories are the greatest of all time. The shortage, the booklet says, is due to two causes: "first, the sharply increased demand for our armed forces, lend-lease, and the civilian population, the latter with an all-time high national income; second, the failure, under government control, to take full advantage of the greatly increased supplies of live animals and feed and expand production even more." The booklet shows the "four years of record supply" as 1940, with 18,995,000,000 pounds of production; 1941, with 19,493,000,000 pounds; 1942, with 21,460,000,000 pounds; and 1943, with an estimated 23,214,000,000 pounds. Slaughter figures set forth in the booklet show that kills in cattle,

Making the Most of the Meat

To help housewives derive the utmost benefit from meats currently available, and in an endeavor to rationalize the matter of rationing, Armour and Company and Swift and Company have instituted advertising slanted in a new wartime angle. Armour's program operates through ads appearing twice a week in 300 newspapers, the ads being set up as food page features directed at women readers. Swift has released a new color slide film, "How to Sell More Meat Per Ration Point," covering suggestions to dealers for the promotion of table-ready meats and for assisting customers on point merchandising. . . . The American Meat Institute is featuring ads in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and other medical publications and in *Hygeia* magazine. These are run with a view to impressing upon the medical profession the fact that new meat substitutes and "meaty" products cannot satisfy every nutritional need as only meat itself can do. Meat, it is pointed out, is one of the richest protein containers, an excellent source of the necessary B vitamins, and a provider of essential minerals such as iron, copper, and phosphorus. While other foods may offer one or two of the elements found in meat, no other single one makes the complete, well-rounded contribution to the human diet that makes meat man's preferred food.

hogs, and sheep have increased year by year for the past four years. Feed production, although not keeping pace with livestock numbers, is on a high level, the booklet declares. So great meat production capacity exists, and "producers and feeders alike are ready to co-operate. They ask only a reasonable margin of profit—enough to permit continued operation. They ask for less arbitrary orders, fewer sudden changes in the program; in short, for a plan that will restore confidence. . . . Unless these things are given, responsibility for the failure to produce meat must lie with Washington."

MEETING NOTES

CATTLEMEN TO HOLD 15-STATE MEETING IN KANSAS CITY

A conference of cattle producers and feeders arranged by stockmen from 15 states has been called for September 2 in the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City to deal with plans for relieving the troubled meat situation. A program will be presented for correcting the conditions brought on through wartime regulations that are hampering meat production. The meeting is an outgrowth of conferences held in Kansas City and Amarillo, Texas, recently, at both of which meetings it was brought out that the meat management plan worked out by the meat and livestock industry and submitted to and accepted by the gov-

ernment should be given a chance to function. The War Meat Board was set up to implement the program, but that agency, stockmen feel, has not been given a fair opportunity to function.

NATIONAL LIVESTOCK TAX COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED

With stockmen from six states present, a meeting was held at Amarillo, Tex., on August 11, to consider problems confronting the livestock industry in matters pertaining to income tax regulations. It has been found that there was considerable variation in the method of assessing taxes on operating livestock ranches, and it was proposed that a committee be formed to protect the interests of the livestock industry, particularly with regard to maintaining fixed inventory values, with consideration also to be given to methods of assessing taxes on forced sales of livestock in drought areas.

Claude K. McCan, president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association, called the meeting to order. After considerable discussion it was voted to appoint an interim steering committee, and the following were named for this purpose: Frank S. Boice, president of the American National Live Stock Association, chairman, Arizona; Claude K. McCan and L. K. Faucett, Texas; Ace Lucas, Oklahoma; A. D. Brownfield, first vice-president of the American National, and Albert K.

Mitchell, New Mexico; and F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National.

All the western cattle and sheep state organizations have been requested to send one delegate each to a permanent organization meeting to be held at Kansas City on September 1. It was suggested that the name of the permanent committee should be the National Livestock Tax Committee.—F. E. MOLLIN.

PUBLIC LANDS HEARING

A subcommittee of the Senate Public Land Committee will hold hearings in Denver, Colo., September 13 and 14, as one of a series of such hearings held in the West during the past two years. Other hearings are scheduled for Albuquerque, N. M., September 7 and 8, and Phoenix, Ariz., September 3 and 4. The committee, under Senator Pat McCarran of Nevada, is authorized to inquire into the administration and use of public lands. Policies of the Forest, Grazing, Indian, Soil Conservation Services, and other governmental departments may be subjected to investigation by the committee.

Included in matters that will come before the committee at Denver are bills which would set aside 10 per cent of the national forest receipts for improving ranges and a bill to restrict carrying firearms on public lands, according to Dr. B. F. Davis, secretary of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association.

In the New Mexico hearing, emphasis

THAT GOVERNMENT BUYER SURE IS GIVING US THE EYE—GUESS HE KNOWS WE'VE HAD OUR CUTTER BLACKLEGOL SHOTS—

Yes, more cattle live to reach market—thanks to Cutter Blacklegol!

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will be placed on the question of Grazing District 7 in San Juan County, which, according to President E. G. Hayward of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, "has been controlled contrary to the desire of Congress and land users." Another matter at issue will be grazing land acquisition by the War Department.

Similar hearings were held at Ely, Nev., August 28, and at Fredonia, Ariz., August 30 and 31.

NEW PRESIDENT OF NORTHWEST SHIPPER'S TRAFFIC LEAGUE

Fred A. Phillips, of Baker, Oregon, for the past 30 years an active member of the American National Live Stock Association and a past president of both the Cattle and Horse Raisers' and the Wool Growers' associations of Oregon, was recently elected president of the Northwestern Livestock Shippers' Traffic League.

**ARIZONA COMMITTEES
ADOPT RESOLUTION**

In a joint meeting of the public lands committee and national forests advisory board of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, Senate Bill 1030, designed to stabilize grazing under permits and give legal status to forest advisory committees was endorsed. Other resolutions opposed further acquisition of lands by the government; urged settle-

ment for forest permittees whose allotments have been taken over for military purposes; and declared that the \$20 valuation figure on range cattle in the state was fair.

FOUR STATES ADOPT UNIFORM BRAND INSPECTION REGULATIONS

Uniform rules and regulations for brand inspectors in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana were adopted at a meeting at Miles City, Mont., August 10. The action was designed to strengthen the brand inspection service in the four states. Attending the conference for the North Dakota Stockmen's Association were President Don Short, Vice-President Angus Kennedy, and Secretary L. E. Arndt; for South Dakota Stock Growers' Association, President Claude Olson; Mert Fowler, of Belle Fourche, S. D., Harve Williams, of Rapid City, and Secretary Ray Kalkbrenner; for Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, Secretary Russell Thorp, of Cheyenne; and for Montana, Paul Raftery, secretary of the livestock commission, and Chief Inspector Bill Sutter, of Billings.

**WANT NO SUBSTITUTION
FOR MEAT IN NATION'S DIET**

A resolution passed by directors of the Cochise-Graham Cattle Growers' Association meeting at Wilcox, Ariz., July 26, recommended that no radical change in the diet of the country be

undertaken at this time but that meat be continued as a basic food of the people. The stockmen pledged their best efforts to continue "to produce meat in sufficient quantities and at a cost that would justify this resolution." The resolution recited that the record of accomplishment of the meat-eating people of the world proved that they have been the leaders, intellectually, physically, and morally, and that the present shortages are temporary and due largely to difficulties of distribution and adjustment to fluctuations of demand due to the war.

**CALIFORNIA ORGANIZATIONS
ISSUE FOOT MOUTH LEAFLET**

Foot-and-mouth disease means destruction of food, and the source of the disease is foreign meat products. This was the theme of a leaflet recently released by the California Cattlemen's Association, the Pacific States Livestock Producers' Association, and the California Wool Growers' Association at San Francisco, Cal. Facts about foot-and-mouth disease, what it is, where it exists, how the United States have kept free from it, and a listing of authorities on the subject generally are set forth in the pamphlet.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION HAS NEW SECRETARY-TREASURER

Allison Johnson, of Hemingford, Nebraska, has been appointed secretary-

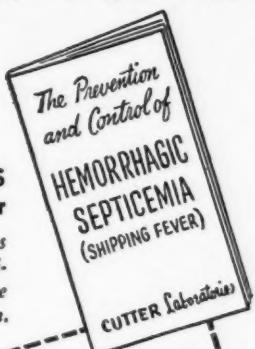
DO YOU KNOW...?

**that vaccination against
ring fever at loading time
do more harm than good!**

Regardless of the vaccine used, after injection as much as a week or more is required to build immunity against shipping fever.

If you're making it a practice to vaccinate your animals while they are being loaded—don't! Such vaccination may actually help to bring on the disease which it is intended to prevent—the reason being that for the first few days after injection the animal's resistance is lowered rather than raised.

Vaccinate at least a week ahead of shipping—with Cutter Pel-menal! Because this aluminum hydroxide adsorbed vaccine is held in the animal's tissues and released very slowly, one dose is the equivalent of small repeated doses of ordinary vaccines.



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on shipping fever
Free booklet gives complete and practical information. Use this handy coupon.

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Send our free booklet:
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treasurer of the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association, succeeding H. H. Sellick, who recently resigned. Mr. Johnson was born on a ranch near Lakeside. He received his public school education at Hemingford and attended the State Teachers' College at Chadron, Neb., and Oregon State College, and received a master's degree at Leland Stanford University. Following work in the public schools, he was employed by Box Butte County, Nebraska, for several years.

Argentina Bans Corn Exports

Argentina, normally the largest corn exporting country in the world, has prohibited exportation of corn, corn meal, and corn oil, according to the Department of Agriculture. The 1942-43 Argentine corn crop, harvested from March through May, was the smallest since 1916-17, the result of reduced acreage and an extreme drought which was general throughout the corn area. The prohibition on exports is designed to conserve existing stocks for feed.

Meat Board's Fall Program Of Meat Exhibits Opens

The National Live Stock and Meat Board's fall program of educational meat exhibits opened at the Wisconsin State Fair at Milwaukee on August 21 to continue at various other fall fairs, according to announcement by the board. Displays will feature the food factors necessary for an adequate diet, with meat playing an important role; the necessity of saving kitchen fats for explosives; the art of extending meat through use of cereals, vegetables, and other foods; and the board's Army meat program.

Locker Plants

Recent approval has been given by the War Production Board for the construction of 350 new locker plants. Already, according to government figures, there are about 4,600 locker units scattered over 46 states of the nation, most of them operating in the north, central and western states. They are primarily used by farmers and they serve, it is estimated, 1,357,920 patrons. Besides providing frozen storage space, most of the plants by far include such services as butchering, chilling, aging, cutting, grinding, curing, smoking, packaging, labeling, and sharp freezing. The services also provide for preparation and quick freezing of fruits and vegetables. Annual potential turnover of meat in the nation's locker plants has been estimated at 939,077,120 pounds.

Range Management Highlights

By David F. Costello, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Fort Collins, Colo.

Drought periods of at least a month may be expected each year in the central Great Plains, while periods of two consecutive months without rain may be expected once in 10 years on the average. Seasons marked by deficient forage production occasioned by drought usually occur about once in five years.

A rise in both respiration rate and body temperature of beef cattle was observed when the animals were moved from shade to strong sunlight, in a study made by the Department of Agriculture at the Iberia Livestock Experiment Farm, Jeanerette, La. Difficulty in disposing of body heat is indicated and is reflected in less time spent grazing on clear days than on overcast days.

Moderate grazing of bitterbrush, one of the most important browse plants of the West, is believed by many stockmen to make the plant more palatable to sheep and cattle than very light grazing or no grazing at all, according to a research note issued by the California Forest and Range Experiment Station. To maintain this shrub in good condition, 40 per cent of the twig growth should be left on the plant each season.

Poisonous milkweeds are not particularly palatable to sheep or cattle. Studies made by the Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station indicate that poisoning of livestock may be prevented by providing good forage at all times. Hungry animals and animals in poor condition should be kept entirely away from milkweed patches.

Clipping bluebunch wheatgrass at two-week intervals during eight weeks of the vegetative stage resulted in less total carbohydrates in roots and herbage, less total nitrogen in the herbage, and a higher percentage of total nitrogen in the roots as compared with unclipped plants. The seven-inch height stage was considered the most vulnerable in the seasonal development of this grass from the standpoint of injury from grazing. The study was made by the Soil Conservation Service near Bozeman, Mont.

Crested wheatgrass on approximately two sections of land near Briggsdale, Colo., produced enough forage to support 125 head of cattle for two months in the spring of 1943. If the abandoned cultivated fields on which this grass was planted had not been seeded and had remained in weedy condition it is esti-

mated that the area would have supported only 20 cattle for the same period.

Data recorded by the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station on 770 calves from 112 Hereford cows indicate that maximum birth-weights of calves were obtained from four-year-old cows and that maximum weaning weights were obtained from six-year-old cows. Milk production capacity appeared to be a fundamental influence.

Many of the most successful manufacturing industries have found it profitable to invest the equivalent of 4 to 6 per cent of their gross earnings in research. On the other hand, funds used in research for the western range livestock industry represent an investment of less than 0.1 of one per cent of gross income.

A grove of 1,425 maple trees in Lorain County, Ohio, which were protected from grazing produced an average of 1 quart of syrup per tree as compared with approximately 1 pint per tree from other groves in the vicinity which were pastured by livestock. This test, conducted by the department of botany at Oberlin College, also showed that sap flow ceased in pastured woodlands earlier than in protected groves.

Plants which have been moderately grazed are sometimes able to withstand drought better than ungrazed vegetation. Apparently removal of foliage by grazing animals reduces the leaf surface of grasses and lowers water use by the plants, thus resulting in conservation of sufficient soil moisture to enable the plant to mature rather than die.

Grazing is generally uneconomical on land where the vegetation is so sparse that more than 15 acres are required to support a mature cow or her equivalent for one month. Gains in weight are not commensurate with the energy spent by the animal in securing forage to meet its needs.

Pocket gophers destroy a considerable amount of vegetation by covering it with soil brought to the surface and deposited in the form of mounds in summer or in earth cores which fill tunnels made in the snow in winter. Extremely heavy gopher infestations on high altitude summer ranges in certain localities in western Colorado have produced an amount of soil sufficient to cover all vegetation once every five years.

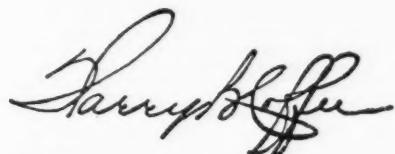
FEEDER BUYERS ARE COMING TO OMAHA!

Faced with travel restrictions, more corn-belt feeder buyers are coming to the world's second largest feeder market — OMAHA.

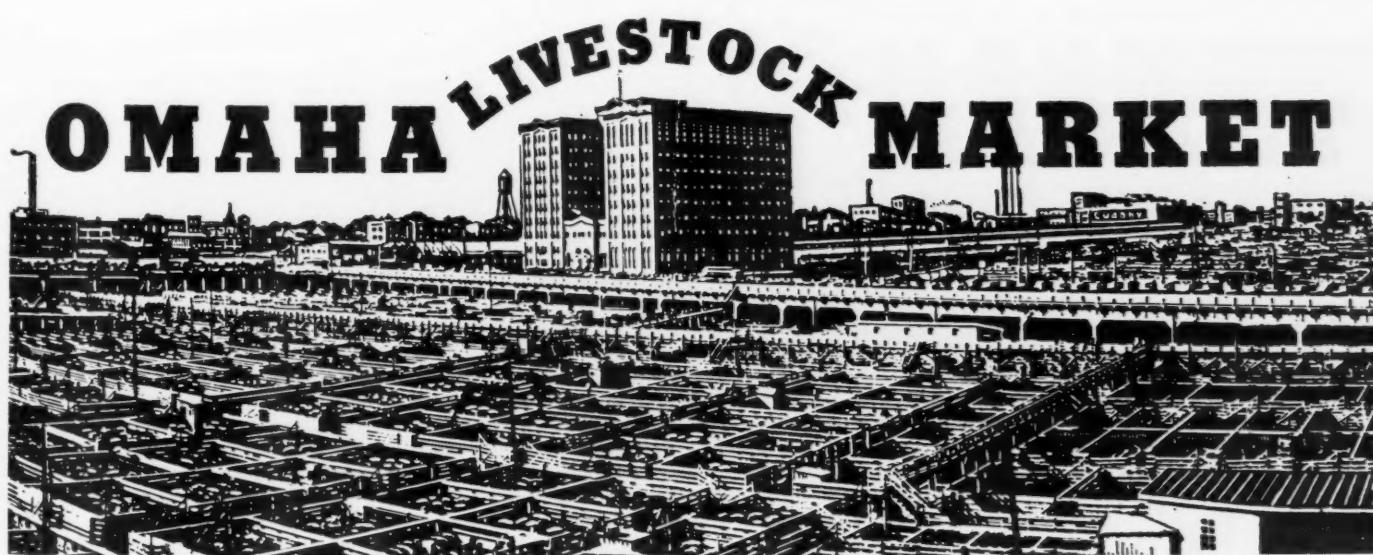
As the second largest beef-packing center, Omaha also offers an urgent demand for grass-fat cattle for slaughter. This means a dependable two-way competitive market for your stock.

Lambs, too, are finding an expanding packer and feeder demand at Omaha.

UNION STOCKYARDS COMPANY
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PRESIDENT



CATTLE IN AN OLD TOBACCO COUNTRY

By DAVID I. DAY

IN THE OLD DAYS, THE LOCAL city around Clarksville, Tenn., in Montgomery County, was one of the great dark tobacco producing sections of the world. The first World War destroyed the export business, and after the conflict, there was little demand for dark tobacco. Foreign countries were raising their own. In this country, cigaret smoking became popular and the dark tobacco trade went into the doldrums.

Habit is a powerful thing, however, so for years the farmers persisted in growing dark tobacco. They could not believe that the world had changed. Eventually they awakened. The bankers, the business men, and the farmers co-operated. Food and feed crops increased. More poultry and fruit were grown. Livestock raising became profitable and consequently popular. Just this summer a national radio hook-up presented an interview from Clarksville showing from the angle of a banker, a factory manager, and a farmer how co-operation is possible and how it had benefited that part of Tennessee.

Every way you go from Clarksville now you see beef cattle, mostly Herefords, some farm herds descended from western heifers and fine registered Hereford bulls brought in. There are many fine sheep, also descended in some instances from western importations. Everywhere are fine hogs, largely Durocs. I do not know offhand of a community more changed for the better the past 20 years, nor one for which beef cattle have accomplished more. The local stock market has kept pace with the development in production.

More money is circulating. The fertility of the region is increasing. You cannot mention anything which has not felt the beneficial influence of the "new way." The churches, the schools, public health—everything.

From Clarksville to Dover, Tenn., is a nice drive through the hills on U. S. 76. The latter town is a nice, friendly little county seat with Fort Donelson National Military Park of about 100 acres as the chief point of general interest. The old Civil War fort is well preserved, with its earthworks, rifle pits, and water batteries. However, in that locality I saw very few good beef cattle. The few to be found were natives of varying quality, not many fed out on grain.

Farmers raise what they require or buy them from farms in the county or



David I. Day

in near-by counties. Some make very good money converting grass and hay into beef. Very few western calves are ever brought into this territory. Consequently, the beef cattle market price or the cost of grain has very little influence upon the folks there. There are some younger farmers thinking of feeding out beef cattle in the future and wishing to start with good commercial cattle. Little will materialize along this line for some time.

The dry weather of July and August has damaged the pastures there considerably. It cut the grain prospects, too, but in all probability there will be rains and the county will take care of its feed needs. We connected at the state line with Kentucky Road 93 and went to Cadiz—a good town of 1,250 people in Trigg County. We saw there a large game preserve with many turkeys and deer. There are no really good herds of beef cattle in the county, but there should be. Native calves are mostly grass-fed. A few men use grain and give their calves a higher finish. All of them are very uncertain about feeding calves next winter. Here, too, a wet spring was followed by a dry summer. Corn and hay crops were cut possibly 35 to 40 per cent.

On northward we drove to Eddyville, in Lyon County. The state penitentiary is located there. In various parts of this county are fine bits of scenery, some good farms, too, in spots. We enjoyed greatly a morning drive around Kuttawa. There are some good commercial cattle there in that part of the county and three registered Hereford herds. Most of the feeder calves used there are natives.

At Paducah, old home town of Irvin S. Cobb, the humorist, we came to the Ohio River. This is a business city of some 35,000 people, and up and down the big river is a constant parade of towboats pushing barges laden with oil and other essential war materials from down in Dixie. There are boat yards there for building and repairing towboats and barges. Here we found several letters awaiting us. One from Roy Lamont, of Chicago, told of visiting Jo Daviess County in northwestern Illinois lately, seeing many fine feed-lots filled with western and native beef stock all around Kent, Stockton, Warren, and Nora. He said nearly all the beef producers met were greatly discouraged because of the price and feed situation.

A letter came from a friend named Lucas who has been visiting relatives in Whiteside County in Illinois, near Morrison. He figures the number of cattle on feed there is from 5 to 10 per cent less than last summer. Farmers are griping about government red tape. In that part of Illinois, the hay crop is short in quantity but excellent in quality. All the grain crops are looking good. This is good country around Morrison and should be better, as 80 4-H

(Continued on Page 20)

Sam N. Moses, Pioneer Cattleman, Passes

Sam N. Moses, 85, pioneer cattleman, sheriff, stock detective, and charter member of the South Dakota Stock Growers' Association, died on August 10 at Miles City, Mont.

Born in 1857 in Vernon, Texas, Mr. Moses went into the Black Hills of South Dakota with a trail herd in 1879. He became sheriff well before the turn of the century and after several years at that job took up free-lance stock-detective work. He was hired as association detective for the South Dakota Stock Growers' Association in 1891 at \$75 for each conviction. In the past 40 years, he had tried various ranching ventures in South Dakota, Wyoming, and Nebraska.

Mrs. Ike T. Pryor Dies

Mrs. Ike T. Pryor, 80, died at her home in San Antonio, Texas, on June 28. She is survived by one daughter and two sons.

Mrs. Pryor was born near Columbus. She was the widow of the late Colonel Ike T. Pryor, well-known pioneer Texas cattleman. Colonel Pryor was president of the American National Live Stock Association in 1917 and 1918.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER—

- 2—Livestock and Feed Conference, Kansas City, Mo.
- 3-4—Senate Public Lands Committee hearing, Phoenix, Ariz.
- 7-8—Senate Public Lands Committee hearing, Albuquerque, N. M.
- 13-14—Senate Public Lands Committee hearing, Denver, Colo.
- 18—Yavapai Cattle Growers' calf sale, Roy Hays Ranch, Kirkland, Ariz.
- 27—Executive board meeting of New Mexico Cattle Growers' Assn., Albuquerque.
- 30—Chicago Junior Market Hog Show and Sale, Chicago.

OCTOBER—

- 11—Wyoming Hereford Ranch sale, Cheyenne, Wyo.
- 19—C. P. Anders Hereford auction, White River, S. D.
- 19-20—North Dakota Hereford Assn. show and sale, Bismarck.
- 22-23—Idaho Cattlemen's fall sale, Twin Falls.

NOVEMBER—

- 2—Triple U Hereford Ranch bull sale, Gettysburg, S. D.
- 4—Black Hills Hereford Ranch bull sale, Belle Fourche, S. D.
- 4-5—Cornhusker Futurity, Broken Bow, Neb.
- 5—Black Hills Hereford Ranch bull sale, Rapid City, S. D.

DECEMBER—

- 29-Jan. 2—Chicago Market Fat Stock and Carlot Competition, Chicago.

JANUARY—

- 10—Turner Ranch sale, Sulphur, Okla.

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Vol. XXV September, 1943 No. 4

Maximum Production

TWO MONTHS AGO THE AMERICAN public was told by the OPA that a "beef famine" had fallen on the country because cattlemen were holding back cattle for higher prices. To the OPA, that announcement looked like a good way out of a jam that leaders in the livestock and meat industry had warned would come about through OPA's unworkable regulations and confusing talk. Under such a state of affairs, feeders could not properly perform their usual function of fattening cattle last year to supply the market for the early half of this year. The result was a shortage, but it was not a case of "hoarding."

A more recent appraisal from Washington is that from now on for the rest of the year beef will be plentiful. Cattle will move from the West in great numbers, as they normally do from August to November and later. The packers' processing machinery will hum, and the Army and others will temporarily be well supplied. But instead of being too complacent about this situation, now is the time to plan so that only those cattle in good killing condition go for immediate slaughter, that the remainder go through the feed-lots. This will make for increased tonnage of beef later, when it will be sorely needed. Unless this is done, present regulations and confusion will cause the slaughter of many cattle not in desirable killing condition.

There is every facility available to set the stage for high production both this fall and next spring. Ranges carry a record number of cattle and the feed situation is good enough to make more meat than ever. The machinery to get the cattle and feed together and the controls necessary in wartime stress on

prices are ready to operate. A War Meat Board to guide a practical meat management plan exists. With this alternative, which provides maximum production, an even flow of livestock to market, and efficient distribution, we should not be content with "plenty" this fall at the expense of "famine" next spring.

Protect Agriculture

PROFESSOR ERNEST LAUR, Brugg, Switzerland, president of the International Confederation of Agriculture, urged the International Conference on Food which met in Hot Springs, Va., in May, to consider the problem of protecting agricultural prices. Unless agriculture is protected, he said in a telegram to the conference, depression both in agriculture and in industry will follow. He made a realistic observation:

In my capacity as president ad interim of the International Confederation of Agriculture I take the liberty to draw the attention of the conference upon the following circumstances. For moral and social reasons the International Confederation of Agriculture considers with great satisfaction all help measures in order to secure a sufficient nutrition of territories menaced by famine. On the other hand, agriculture will need an adequate protection after the war. Free competition not completed by regulation of market and of prices would bear great dangers. The extension of cereal cultivation in Europe and in other parts of the world would then lead soon to disproportion between supply and demand. The consequence would be price collapse and crisis in agricultural countries. The reduction of buying power of agricultural countries would in turn shorten considerably the outlet for manufactured goods and provoke a general depression and unemployment both in agricultural and in industrial states. We deem it very important to avoid the errors which provoked two heavy crises after the first World War.

In a statement remarking on his own telegram, Professor Laur added an explanation:

The world economic crisis after 1930 began with the price collapse of agricultural produce. The reduced buying power of farmers led soon to a decrease of demand for industrial products and therethrough to unemployment in industry and trades. The price paid for cheap food was impoverishment of farming population both in agricultural and in industrial countries and unemployment of many million workers in industry and handicraft. It is necessary to prevent under all circumstances the same bitter experience in the new peace era. What would be the use of free competition if farmers and unemployed were not in a position to buy the goods?

The first and most important international problem to solve after the war will therefore be to prevent that prices of agricultural produce fall below the cost of production. On that base the whole world economics will thrive.

The war has prevented us from seeing the result of the present administration's policy of lowering protective tariffs on agricultural commodities and of thinking more in terms of high wages to labor than of profit or even cost of production to agriculture. On the one hand, the administration has encouraged high wages. On the other hand, it has through its schemes of benefit payments and subsidies encouraged low food prices. When agriculture can no longer get cost of production and a reasonable profit for its product, how shall labor be able to continue its high wages?

Professor Laur puts it this way:

Recovery of world economics must go through agriculture. Improving wages of the workers without giving security and protection to agriculture at the same time leads always to economic crises. An agricultural population with a fair buying power keeps the fly-wheel of world economics in motion and secures work and income to all.

Feeders Whacked Again

THE PAST YEAR HAS WITNESSED a succession of administrative actions which, no doubt unintentionally, have had a very serious effect upon the morale of the cattle feeders of this country. Some of these actions, such as the subsidy rollback and a recent cancellation of contracts for protein concentrates, have entailed severe direct losses. Even the discussions of live animal ceilings, indulged in all too frequently by Washington officials, have caused repercussions on the market to the financial detriment of all shippers.

There is a limit to the amount of punishment that feeders or producers can take in this fashion. It would appear that the promulgators of these arbitrary orders are not looking ahead to the period between January 1 and July 1, 1944. In the intervening four months there should be fairly ample supplies of beef available as the current stocks in feed-lots are emptied and the expected big runs from the range country materialize, but everywhere the feeders, unnerved at the constant undermining of the security of their operations, are stating that they are not going to take the risk again. This seems to apply particularly in the case of commercial feeders throughout the entire country, who have to bear the full brunt of labor and feed shortages. The farmer feeder, growing much of his own feed and having most of his own labor in the family circle, is not hit quite so hard, but he, too, is weary of these unexpected blows. Another factor is the increased cost in every item—labor, coarse grains, and concentrates—with a fixed meat ceiling. If the ceilings established in December were reasonable then in connection with existing costs, they are too low now. When Uncle Sam wanted a great expansion

sion in industrial plants he provided for it on a cost-plus basis. He cannot expect to secure a great expansion in meat production on a cost-minus basis.

The industry has repeatedly warned OPA and WFA that these various moves and the threat of more to come would inevitably decrease production. Today, with the growing crop almost assured, we have the raw materials for large-scale meat production next winter, record numbers of animals; grain and concentrates, if not in overabundance, in relatively large supply; producers and feeders ready and willing to operate and wanting only a reasonable margin of profit, admittedly necessary to continue operations. If the job isn't done, if the Army finds it difficult to secure beef for the fighting men next spring, the record is clear: It will not be the fault of producers or feeders—the responsibility must rest in Washington and Washington alone.

No Time to Strike

"War is not the time to strike," said Corporal Clarence Stephens, recently returned to Chattanooga, Tenn., after a year in the South Pacific. "I was a good union man myself before I went to the Army, but when you're in uniform, far away from home, fighting so others at home can go on living and working just as you used to, it's depressing to hear that men are striking for more money."

WASHINGTON

THE RANCHER'S INCOME TAX

CONGRESS GAVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION to the hazards and seasonal nature of the business of ranching and farming when it passed the Current Tax Payment Act of 1943, which is more generally known as the "pay-as-you-go" tax measure.

Incidentally, "city farmers" don't benefit from these special provisions. The law declares that a real farmer is one who derives at least 80 per cent of his gross income from farming.

The act does not require ranchers to act as tax collecting agents by withholding part of the wages of the hired help.

This "pay-as-you-go" income tax law places upon other employers of labor the job of withholding and paying over to the federal treasury part of the wages of their employes. But this is not required of farmers or ranchers. The rancher who employs help does not have this extra bookkeeping and banking to do.

The rancher is not required to file his annual estimate of income and the tax payable on it until December 15. Others who are required to file this declaration must do so this year by September 15, and in 1944 and later

years by March 15. But the law recognizes that most farmers' and ranchers' incomes are so concentrated in part of the year that an earlier "estimate" could probably be nothing better than a guess. Too many uncertainties of weather costs, market prices, etc., prevail. So Congress put off the farmers' necessary declaration filing date until December 15.

Even at that late date the rancher or farmer is allowed extra latitude. Others who must file their declaration or estimate of tax due on the year's income must be 80 per cent correct in their figuring. If their error is more than 20 per cent, they pay a penalty based on the amount by which they underestimate. But farmers or ranchers are allowed a margin of error in their estimates of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent, or one-third, before becoming liable for the penalty of a fine added to the tax owed.

Ranchers who wish to get their income tax payment program on the "pay-as-you-go" basis without delay are given the option this year of filing their declaration on September 15 and making a payment of half the estimated 1943 tax, less payments already made on their 1942 incomes, or making their declaration on December 15 and paying

deep water

Some of the things we have had to say about our former sales read like this "GET"

IN 1937—“The greatest set of calves and young cattle ever gathered together for one sale.”

IN 1939—“The Choicest of the Choice.”

"The equal or better of anything we have ever sold."

IN 1941—"Sincerely feel we have the best group of sale cattle for many years."

IN 1942—"We have earnestly tried to make this the finest group we have ever put up."



So. words may fail us for 1943 but cattle won't "let you down." Remember.

ANNUAL WHR SALE

Monday, October 11

A superlative offering of 50 bulls and heifers

WYOMING HEREFORD RANCH

the entire estimated balance due at that time. Like all others who file their declaration on September 15 ranchers who miscalculate their estimated tax then are given the privilege of filing an amended estimate on or before December 15 and making any adjustments in their payments at that time.

However, for the immediate future, there are two most important tax facts for ranchers to remember. The first is that the "pay-as-you-go" law does require every one of them whose gross income for all of either 1942 or 1943 is sufficient to require the filing of an income tax return and who has \$100 or more of gross income not subject to withholding to file a declaration of estimated income and victory tax either by September 15 or at the very latest by December 15. The second is, that, if this declaration shows any 1943 income tax still owing to the government, the rancher filing by September 15 must then pay at least half of that amount, and the balance by December 15, or, if he files the declaration on or before December 15, he must then pay the full amount then estimated to be owing.

As in the past, final returns must be filed on March 15 on incomes received in the previous year. At that time, those who have overpaid are entitled to claim refunds or receive credits. In the case of underpayments, this is the time to pay the balance between the amounts of tax previously paid and the amount due according to final return.

The special provisions for delayed filing do not apply to farmers or ranchers who receive more than 20 per cent of gross income from other than farm sources. Such people must make their declarations on or before September 15, 1943, like other non-farming individuals.

Every rancher or farmer as described in the law must make a declaration of estimated tax either on September 15 or December 15 of this year if he either filed an income tax return for 1942 or expects to file an income and victory tax return for 1943.

A word of warning about carelessness, putting off, or forgetting about this tax obligation: In order to encourage the prompt adoption of the current tax payment plan, the law provides that if a declaration is due but is not filed on time, 10 per cent will be added to the final tax owed. If an installment of estimated tax is due but is not paid in time, the delay will cost the taxpayer \$2.50 or 2½ per cent of the tax, whichever is the greater, for each overdue installment.

Treasury officials are particularly pleased at the splendid co-operation which farmers and ranchers have shown in paying their taxes and buying many millions of war bonds, in spite of the difficult war-created problems, such as the shortage of manpower and lack of equipment. Collectors of internal revenue have been instructed to render all possible help in making out their declarations and explaining the new tax law.

NEW CHIEF OF FEDERAL BAI



Dr. A. W. Miller

Dr. Arthur W. Miller, new chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, succeeding Dr. John R. Mohler, whose retirement was announced in late July, has been assistant chief of the BAI since 1928. Dr. Miller was born in 1876 at Manchester, N. H., and spent the early years of his life on a ranch near Junction City, Kan.

After graduation from high school and a short time spent in raising livestock, he entered the Kansas City Veterinary College. He graduated in 1901 and entered the BAI, where he engaged in meat inspection and livestock disease eradication work. In 1917 he went to Washington, where he has been successively chief of three different divisions of the bureau.

A note from Dr. Miller's predecessor, Dr. Mohler, in appreciation of a telegram sent by F. E. Mollin, executive secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, said "It is very gratifying to hear from men like yourself that my efforts to develop and protect the various branches of our country's livestock industry have been appreciated."

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"GET" of such herd sires as

STAR DOMINO 6th
WHR PRINCEPS MIXER
WHR SETH DOMINO 3rd
WHR ROYAL DOMINO 102nd
WHR SUPER DOMINO 20th
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ed by years of constructive herd improvement establishing the best approved type of cattle; ed by an unequalled show ring record at the major e stock shows;

ed by unqualified success in many, many herds of her breeders throughout the nation;

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can confidently expect this annual sale offering consist exclusively of TOP cattle.

Although we may have used "strong language" in announcing our sale offerings from year to year, we have tried not "to get in over our heads"—and the results of each succeeding sale have justified our every claim.

You won't need to take with "any grain of salt" anything we tell you about this year's offering. Many breeders who have already seen it, acclaim it the "best ever."

WHR Jupiter Domino 150th, calved Sept. 21, 1941. (Photo at 15 months.)
Son of the famous REGISTER OF MERIT sire, Star Domino 6th.



WYOMING HEREFORD RANCH

Bob Lazear, Mgr.



AAA Gag Law

Overzealous interpretations of a law passed by Congress recently to curb undue "press agent" activities of AAA fieldmen and the many complaints to Washington as a consequence, made it necessary for War Food Administrator Marvin Jones to step in and attempt to silence the rumpus and restore to reasonable voice the AAA workers who had found themselves so abruptly muted. Jones' clarifying statement, issued evidently in the belief that it is possible for AAA employees to hold necessary discourse with farmers without attempting to sell a bill of AAA political goods, simplifies the regulation to permit state, county, and community committeemen to "give full information to individual farmers and groups of farmers, or to anyone else as to the provisions of and the operations of the farm program." The regulation specifically prohibits the employment of informational agents in regional, state, and county offices, and states that "no employee shall engage in any promotional or propaganda activities or in any activity designed to influence legislation."

Range Producers Urged To Market Livestock Early

The Department of Agriculture advocates early marketing of range cattle in the interests of maximum beef supplies to meet war needs and also for the good of the range and future production. Leading western stockmen have urged similar action. According to the Agricultural Department, cattle in the 17 western states at the beginning of this year numbered 34,638,000 head—near an all-time high. The department reported that range forage production was exceptionally good both in 1941 and 1942 but that western hay and grain reserves for livestock were drawn down materially in those two years and had practically vanished by the spring of 1943.

Crop Control Suspension

With the suspension of federal crop controls for the duration, as announced by War Food Administration officials in August, the planning of production

quotas will be returned to the farmer himself after a 10-year period of administrative show-down. The 1944 crop program for the nation as a whole will be announced after Congress reconvenes, but will be followed on a "purely voluntary" basis by the individual farmer. WFA may, however, suggest what crops are most needed. The step is taken to mean reduction or complete elimination of direct benefit payments for cutting acreage on most, and possibly all, crops, and should again permit the farmer to judge what can be most suitably gleaned from the land which he owns and operates.

John T. Caine III to Denver

John T. Caine III, whose appointment as manager of the National Western Stock Show at Denver was announced recently, brings with him a long-time background of close association with the livestock industry. He will also act as public relations man for the Denver Union Stock Yard Company and the Denver Livestock Exchange. He was born in Logan, Utah, and attended Utah State Agricultural College and Iowa State College. From 1906 to 1914 he headed the animal husbandry department of Utah State and during the first World War he was in charge of livestock production in western states for the Department of Agriculture. Later, through his connection with the Los Angeles Union Stock Yards Company and then the Chicago Union Stock Yards, which post he is leaving to accept the Denver appointment, Caine made a wide acquaintance among stockmen. He has studied livestock methods in Europe and has visited every important livestock producing area in this country. Caine succeeds Courtland R. Jones, who is retiring after long service with the show.



John T. Caine III

Order Your Proteins Early

Stockmen should order their protein concentrates needs early, is the advice of F. E. Mollin, secretary-treasurer of the American National Live Stock Association, after attending a meeting called by federal officials to discuss plans for distribution of concentrates this fall. Mr. Mollin reported that "We were told that 75 per cent of the available product is to be distributed through normal channels and the remaining 25 per cent on order of the war boards. There is a further requirement that an additional 10 per cent may be taken for distribution by the war boards in case of emergency. The war boards are going to submit recommendations to Washington as to how they propose to handle this distribution, and it seems to me important that stockmen in each state should confer with the authorities making these plans before the recommendations are submitted. Inasmuch as it is anticipated that the demand again will exceed the supply, eventually something in the nature of a priority may be devised for use by the war boards, but it may be that they will apportion the available supply among the various groups which are considered essential."

Lend-Lease May Ship Horse Meat For Foreign Relief

Foreign areas that have been accustomed to horse meat may soon be getting that product from the United States. This is revealed in a letter to Congressman Frank A. Barrett, of Wyoming, from E. R. Stettinius, Jr., administrator of lend-lease. The Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations is programming horse meat for such relief needs to the extent of 5,000,000 pounds, which, it is estimated, will comprise a three-month supply for foreign relief needs, the letter stated. Rate of procurement of additional quantities will depend on the "success of our arms" and the needs of the territories liberated. The program, it is believed, will not result in the slaughter of horses which are suitable for work or other purposes.

IN AN OLD TOBACCO COUNTRY

(Continued from Page 16)

boys and girls and some 60 Future Farmers of America are going through with beef projects this summer.

All up through Kentucky—old tobacco country—more counties need to follow the lead of Montgomery County in Tennessee. More livestock and less tobacco raising and hard grain cropping on the hills could make a real garden spot of the country in the space of one generation.

Visiting a few herds in the vicinity of Paducah on both sides of the Ohio River, I found the sentiment virtually the same as in northern Indiana and northern Illinois. Farmers are uncertain as to cattle feeding operations after disposing of the animals on hand. It looks as though the number will be considerably reduced. Some government official made a statement which was widely circulated in the *Southern Agriculturist* and other farm papers which circulate up to the Ohio. The statement was to the effect that "price controls" would have to continue even after the war. This has made a very bad impression, especially upon the cattle producers.

They want less government interference, an end to "price controls" and all other sorts of government "controls." They are just a bit worried about the return of old-fashioned constitutional government. It will not astonish me greatly if the elections of 1944 were a real rural uprising.

As matters stood about August 10, the market was a little stronger on the good to choice kinds, and farmers with those grades were willing to feed to a fairly high finish. With the plainer sorts, evidently the idea is to market with none too good finish. Regardless of the kind of cattle on feed, the owners are a bit fidgety and the feeling is very widespread that it will be a happy day when the cattle go to town and the check gets in the bank.

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IS THERE COMPETITION FOR YOUR LIVESTOCK?



Perhaps the most highly competitive market in the world is that on which American livestock producers sell their cattle, sheep and hogs. The competition in buying of livestock is so keen that those who handle and process meat animals average to pay out for their raw material (livestock) about 75 per cent of their total income from the sale of meat and by-products, and their annual earnings on the meat and by-products which they sell represent only an infinitesimal part of a penny per pound of product.

Nothing in the world, other than the keenest kind of competition in both the buying of livestock and the selling of the products, would hold profits of the processors to such small figures (one-fifth of a cent a pound in 1941).

The competition is so keen that even old and well established firms are un-

der constant pressure to obtain sufficient raw materials. The available supply of livestock is what determines the volume of the meat business and, if a competitor is allowed to buy an ever-increasing portion of the market receipts, that competitor will inevitably increase his volume of business at the expense of other competitors in the trade.

So it is constantly necessary for us to watch the operations of competitors and to match their efforts in the matter of obtaining supplies that we may not lose ground and fall back in our business which we have been years in building up.

It is this "watch and match the other fellow" situation which makes the packing business the most highly competitive in the world and holds the profits to such small figures.

ARMOUR and COMPANY

MARKETS

MANY CHANGES IN LIVESTOCK SITUATION

By H. W. French

SEASONAL FLUCTUATION WAS noted in the cattle trade, and the price range widened considerably. Good to choice grain-fed steers continued in rather broad demand from all interests, but common and medium grades suddenly suffered an indifferent call. This was particularly true of cows and light-weight bulls. Hogs worked to a stronger level than anticipated and fat spring lamb prices slumped as supplies increased.

There were many changes in the general livestock situation, and in most instances the buyers had the market in hand. Cattle supplies were not heavy,

but hogs continued in good volume, while the sheep industry was upset in more ways than one. Not only was the market for slaughter classes rather depressed but the uncertainty of the feeder-lamb problem beset the growers.

Recently buyers were turning to the lighter weight steers, although they continued to support the market for long-fed heavies. Many of the markets are reporting only a small percentage of the crop as having been fed more than from five to eight months. Some big feed-lot operators are not making replacements, not so much because of the price of feeder cattle, although this is a determining factor, but mainly because of the corn situation. Recently many shipments of fed cattle were marketed so as to reduce the corn bill.

Grass-fat cows are appearing in in-

creasing numbers but so far the movement has not been abnormal, the percentage of cows most frequently standing around 15 or less. The run of grass-fat steers at Kansas City, however, has been liberal, and during the second week of August 375 cars, mostly from Kansas, were reported. That was only 10 cars below the peak week of 1942. This market anticipates the peak run in September, as many cattle must be moved out of Kansas and Oklahoma pastures.

Slaughter of cattle under federal inspection in July at 844,992 was over 200,000 head short of July, 1942, and the calf slaughter at 335,011 compared with 461,376 a year ago. Increased slaughter in non-federal houses and by farm slaughterers may offset this decrease to some extent. Federal slaughter of cattle for the first seven months was 5,827,659 against 6,805,660 a year earlier, while the calf slaughter totaled 2,435,086 and 3,231,814, respectively.

MARKET WEIGHTS HOLD

The feed situation throughout the country is very uneven, but to date has had little influence on marketing weights of cattle. During the first week of August the beef steers out of first hands averaged 1,069 pounds as compared with 1,073 pounds a year earlier. Good, choice, and prime steers made up 83 per cent of the supply as against 85.8 per cent of the offerings during the first week of August last year. Common and medium accounted for 17 and 14.2 per cent, respectively. The spread in price between good and choice slaughter steers was less than \$1 in both years, and the changes between other grades was practically no wider than a year ago.

Under a new order of the War Food Administration, slaughterers—those who own livestock at the time of slaughter for meat production—were divided into three classes. Class 1 slaughterer means any slaughterer whose establishment is operated under federal inspection. Class 2 slaughterer means any slaughterer other than a Class 3 slaughterer whose establishment is not operated under federal inspection. Class 3 slaughterer means any farmer who slaughters or who is authorized to slaughter livestock for the delivery of meat in an amount not exceeding 10,000 pounds per year, live weight.

Slaughterers may deliver to civilians in California, Oregon, and Washington lamb and mutton up to 100 per cent of their August, 1941, base, but elsewhere the deliveries are held to 80 per cent. The August pork quota deliverable to civilians was increased to 90 per cent. Packers must set aside 40 per cent of their good and choice beef for the armed forces, as against a previous requirement of 45 per cent.

Changes in prices for good and choice slaughter of steers at Chicago were unimportant, but there was some weakness on most of the medium to good, while common and low medium grades declined 50 cents or more. Best grain-

Producers Oppose Live Stock Ceilings

Price ceilings on live animals will be the beginning of a regimentation of the industry that many producers believe will soon be complete and may be permanent.



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fed heifers displayed slight strength and weakness pervaded other grades, common and grassy kinds selling irregularly and showing some net loss for the period. Cow prices dropped mostly \$1 within 10 days, and for the month the decline for all grades averaged 50 cents to \$1. Good heavy bulls were only about 25 cents lower and most of the other grades and weights were 50 to 75 cents off. Bulls still out-sell cows, grade for grade. Vealers gained 50 cents to \$1, but heavy calves showed less upturn.

Estimated meat production in federally-inspected plants during the second week of August totaled 327,000,000 pounds or 22 per cent above a week earlier and 19 per cent greater than the same week last year. All classes of meat were represented in the increase as compared with the first week of August. Beef production was down 12 per cent from a year ago, veal was off 29 per cent, lamb and mutton was up 38 per cent, and pork production gained 60 per cent.

Subsidies to slaughterers will have a tendency to keep slaughterers within their quotas, as no payments are made for overages. Claims of losses, especially in the slaughter of beef animals, are still to be heard, but the market for the upper grades of grain-fed steers and heifers nevertheless has been well supported and the subsidy payments may be the prop under the general broad demand.

CATTLE ON FEED 11 PER CENT DOWN FROM YEAR AGO

Cattle on feed in the Corn Belt on August 1 was 11 per cent smaller than a year earlier and is the second year in succession in which the number was smaller than a year earlier, the number on August 1, 1941, having reached a record. On April 1 the number on feed was 1 per cent larger than a year ago, and on January 1 it was 8 per cent larger. Wisconsin and South Dakota showed an increase on August 1 but all other states were down, with a decrease of 30 per cent in Minnesota, 20 per cent in Ohio, Illinois, and Kansas; 10 per cent in Nebraska, and 5 per cent in Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, and Missouri.

Several loads of choice to prime Iowa and Colorado fed steers at Chicago scored a top of \$16.90 during the past month, a fair quota of choice landing at \$16.50 to \$16.85, although at the close of the period buyers were attempting to stay around \$16.75 and below for top steers. Most of the toppy yearlings were taken at \$16 to \$16.60 but long yearlings occasionally sold at \$16.60 to \$16.75. Good to choice, 1,512-to 1,609-pound offerings went at \$15.85 to \$16.65. Any number of grassy and short-fed steers sold at \$12 to \$14.75.

Choice mixed yearlings topped at \$16.35 and several loads of heavy and medium weight heifers were reported at \$16.15 to \$16.25, while bulk of good to low choice cleared at \$13.75 to \$15.50. Grass-fat heifers went at \$14 down.

Some Wyoming well-wintered cows reached \$14.25 at the peak and late some reached \$13.50, but cows selling late at \$12 to \$12.15 were similar to those earlier at \$13 to \$13.50. Any number of medium southwestern cows cleared at \$11 to \$11.50. Best heavy sausage bulls landed at \$14 to \$14.35 but many medium light weights cleared below \$11.75. Vealers scored as high as \$16 with regularity.

Most of good to choice fed steers at Kansas City were secured at \$13.50 to \$15.50 but several loads of choice grade scored \$15.85 to \$16.10. Common and medium grass steers usually sold at \$10.25 to \$13 and wintered grassers reached \$13.85, cutter to common Mexicans landing at \$9.35 to \$11.75. Most of the grain-fed heifers went at \$13.25 to \$15.50, with top at \$15.90 and grass heifers largely at \$11 to \$12. Common to good cows bulked at \$9.25 to \$11.75 but some reached \$12.75 and fed kinds sold as high as \$13. Very few bulls passed

\$13.50 and cutter kinds sold as low as \$9. Vealers sold downward from \$14.

Omaha reported several loads of strictly choice steers from 1,200 to 1,664 pounds at \$16.25, good to choice bulking at \$14 to \$16. Medium short-feds landed at \$12.75 to \$14. Fed mixed yearlings reached \$15.75 and heifers topped at \$15, but medium to choice usually were taken at \$12 to \$15. Common to medium grass heifers bulked at \$10 to \$11.50. Some fed cows scored \$12.50 to \$13.50, but no westerns passed \$12.25 and many sold at \$10.25 to \$12. Bulls went downward from \$14.15 and vealers topped at \$15.

Good to choice steers at Sioux City generally made \$14.50 to \$16 with top at \$16.15. Good to choice fed heifers scored \$14.25 to \$15.25 and 842-pound medium Montana grassers made \$11.85. Most medium to good cows made \$10.50 to \$11.75, a few good scoring \$12.50 to \$13.50 and some fed lots making \$13.75 to \$14 sparingly. Bulls reached \$14.50

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and vealers \$15. Good to choice steers at St. Joseph made \$13.50 to \$15.75 and wintered grassers scored \$13 to \$13.50. Straight grassers usually scored \$11.25 to \$12.75, common heavy horned Mexicans selling down to \$10. Good to choice grain-fed heifers made \$13 to \$15. Common to good cows went at \$8.50 to \$12.50. Bulls reached \$13.50 and vealers \$14.

August sales of good to choice steers at Denver were consummated at \$14 to \$15.90 and common to medium loads, including Mexicans, were taken at \$11 to \$13.25. Numerous loads of choice heifers scored \$15.50 to \$15.75 while low good kinds were taken around \$13.50 to \$14.25. Grass-fat heifers were only in odd lots, some reaching \$13.50 but bulk selling at \$11 to \$12.75. Most of the heavy bulls landed at \$12.75 to \$13.50 but medium grade light weights often sold at \$11.50 down. Hardly any good aged cows passed \$12.25, but any number of good young cows reached \$12.50 to \$12.85 and a few fed animals scored \$13. It was usually a \$14 market for choice vealers. Choice steers at St. Paul made \$15.50 to \$15.90, common to medium \$11 to \$14, and some cutter offerings as low as \$8.50. Most fed heifers went at \$15.25 down although top was \$15.85. Common to medium cows scored \$9 to \$11.50, some good cows from North Dakota reaching \$12.50. Bulls sold up to \$14 and vealers reached \$16.50.

FEWER REPLACEMENT CATTLE GOING TO COUNTRY

Regardless of what the reasons may be, the movement of replacement cattle to the country is down sharply. Some blame the feed situation, while others are as insistent that it is a matter of price. Many cattle growers already are willing to make some concessions, but it will take more than present changes in fat-cattle values to get them into the mood to market "green" cattle at sharply reduced levels.

During the first two weeks in August, 24,810 stocker and feeder cattle were purchased at Chicago, Kansas City, St. Paul, and Omaha—a decrease of 47 per cent as compared with a like period in 1942. Total purchases at these markets during July were down 21 per cent from a year ago. There were 63,730 cattle brought into eight Corn Belt states during July against 90,509 a year ago. The movement into Iowa was less than half as large as last July and slight increases were reported for Indiana and Wisconsin, with a good gain for Michigan.

STOCKERS AND FEEDERS DECLINE

Stocker and feeder cattle and calves at Chicago showed around 50 cents to \$1 decline since a month earlier, and somewhat similar losses were indicated at Denver, but prices at other primary markets in most instances measured considerably less. The market was very nervous but most of the time country buyers displayed little or no interest in

replacement stock, and this frequently resulted in many offerings going to killers which ordinarily would have gone back to the feed-lots.

Chicago reported many replacement sales of steers at \$12.25 to \$14, including some Montanas at the top figure. Any number of cull and common southwestern calves averaging 400 to 550 pounds were taken by killers at \$8.25 to \$9, and within a short time this class broke \$1 to \$1.50. Usually with an abundance of feed and proper market condition many of this class would have been taken for a "gamble" by country buyers.

Many steers went to the country at Kansas City within a \$12 to \$12.90 spread and some yearlings reached \$13.85. A few loads of fleshy feeder steers around 1,100 to 1,150 pounds scored \$13.35 to \$14.25. Medium offerings were purchased chiefly at \$10.50 to \$11.50. Some good heifers sold on country account at \$10.50 to \$11.75. Stock cows scored \$8.50 to \$9, but some range offerings of much better grade went at \$10 to \$10.35 with calves at sides. Most of the good to choice stock calves landed at \$12.75 to \$14.50 but some vealer weights went out at \$14.90 to \$15.50.

Good to choice steers were taken from Omaha at \$12.75 to \$13.50, including some fleshy feeders at \$13.40. Medium to choice heifers sold at \$10.50 to \$12.75. Some 519-pound western Nebraska yearling steers topped at \$14.25 and vealer weight calves made \$15.50 to \$16. Most steers at St. Joseph ranged from \$11 to \$12.75 and stock cows made \$7.50 to \$9. Common and medium stocker and feeder steers at St. Paul sold at \$9.50 to \$12.

Late in July some yearling steers at Denver reached \$13.75, but practically nothing passed \$13 well into August, although choice range arrivals were absent. Common to medium heifers went out at \$9.50 to \$11.50 with no good and choice light yearling lots available. Low-grade stock cows sold largely around \$8.50. It was largely an \$11 to \$13 market for stock calves which were offered, but some good to choice heavy lots landed at \$13.75 to \$13.85 and only something strictly choice was quotable much above \$14.25.

Average price of feeder and stocker steers at Chicago the first week of August figured \$12.58 against \$11.74 a year ago, with the Kansas City price \$12.16 and \$11.55, respectively, while St. Paul reported a cost of \$11.32 and \$10.71, respectively. The differences in prices are not adjusted to grade at the different markets. For the month of July the Chicago average was \$13.83 against \$11.73 a year ago; Kansas City, \$12.48 and \$11.09, respectively, and St. Paul, \$12.34 and \$10.53, respectively.

Combined receipts of salable hogs at 12 markets and the interior Iowa and southern Minnesota direct area totaled 611,500 head against 442,000 the corresponding week last year. The July total reached 2,728,100, or the largest July at

least in five years, standing 32.2 per cent heavier than a year earlier.

MANY ARE MARKETING SOWS

Approximately 34 per cent of the hogs slaughtered at seven Corn Belt markets during the first week of August consisted of sows, or 36 per cent as against a percentage of sows in the corresponding week last year of 30. It appears as though many are marketing their sows and have little intention of staying in the marketing and producing game. Only recently there were over 100 boars received in one day at Denver—a market at which even bred sows have been appearing and also where young gilts are sent after farrowing a crop of pigs.

The expected ceiling price for hogs at Chicago of \$14.75, effective August 15, was not placed in effect, and previous to that date the market around the circuit enjoyed considerable unexpected upturn. Shortly after mid-August hog prices at Chicago were generally 75 cents to \$1 higher than a month earlier, sows showing mostly 50 to 75 cents' advance. Hogs from 200 to 270 pounds continue to sell at or near the top. Following a rise in late July the market continued bullish and the first market day in August found best butchers selling at \$14.45, and this session was followed by an almost uninterrupted rise, with the top for the period \$15 on August 13. Four days later best offerings were bringing \$14.85.

There is a surprisingly large number of ewes being marketed throughout the country, and many of these are of suitable breeding quality, although many in the record runs at Fort Worth were of a cull and common grade. Many of the dry ewes coming are fat and of good to choice grade. Some big outfits are reported as abandoning the industry, evidently not willing to cope with the present uncertainty and the labor and price situation.

Contracting of feeder lambs on the ranges has been limited recently and at times at a standstill. Growers were holding for above \$13, while prospective feeders were determined to keep the first cost below \$12.50. There were sales made early at \$13 and up but scattered deals of late have been at \$12.75 and down where bands carried no fat end. The recent drop in slaughter lamb prices has had a tendency to soften the feeder lamb market and perhaps both sides may soon get together and a good clean-up of the smaller crop result.

SHEEP REDUCTION TREND CONTINUES

Marketings of matured sheep recently made up 25 per cent of the total sheep and lamb slaughter, whereas a year ago for a like period such animals constituted only 10 per cent. This indicates a continuation of the trend toward reduced numbers of sheep on farms and ranches which began in 1942. Inspected sheep and lamb slaughter during May through July totaled 12 per cent larger than a year earlier despite the 5 per cent reduction in this year's lamb crop.

The 1943 lamb crop, estimated at 31,101,000, was about 1,500,000 smaller than in 1942, or a 5 per cent decrease. It was the smallest since 1939, according to the Department of Agriculture, but compared with the 10-year (1932-41) average proved 3 per cent larger. The percentage lamb crop was 83.3 against 86.4 in 1942 and 84.0 for the 10-year average.

The native lamb crop was 10,964,000, or 600,000 short of a year earlier, while in the 13 western sheep states the crop was placed at 20,137,000, or 900,000 below last year. The reduction in the West was due to labor shortage and inexperienced available labor at lambing time, as weather and feed conditions were little different from a year ago. Lambs did not develop satisfactorily up to June 1 in both years but later showed very good recovery in most areas.

Increased sheep and lamb receipts were noted at many centers. Many Idaho lambs were moving to many of the markets and Colorados showed some increase, especially at Denver, while Washington made up much of the run at St. Paul. Down in Texas ewes predominated. Prices showed some fluctuations but shortly after mid-August slaughter spring lambs at Chicago of choice grade were not down much in the face of a big loss on medium to good grades. Elsewhere the general market for slaughter lambs was off sharply, usually averaging 50 cents to \$1. Fat ewes at most points were 25 to 75 cents lower but instances of \$1 decline were not uncommon.

Strictly good and choice Colorado spring lambs the last week of July sold at \$15.85 and good to choice Idahos were reported at \$14.85 to shippers, while Ogden had many Idahos at \$14.25 to \$14.65, both Idahos and Oregons reaching \$15.15 at Omaha. Prices soon dropped and Chicago reported nothing above \$15.25. Early in August, however, choice Washingtons scored \$15.25 to \$15.40 at Chicago and outstanding Colorados at Denver reached \$15.50, little at other markets passing \$15. Tops at all markets later dropped below \$15. Cull to good slaughter ewes at Fort Worth made \$5 to \$6.75 and the top at Chicago before the reaction was \$7.50, although at the close of the period most of the good ewes were to be had below \$7 at practically all points.

Feeder lambs were very irregular on the market centers and at times the demand was not very good in the face of only moderate supplies. Prices fluctuated, but usually there was quick recovery after every decline. Changes for the period were of little consequence. Late in July quite a number of choice feeder lambs scored \$14 at Omaha and Denver, the former market reporting a top of \$14.15 the first week of August. Later sales, however, were chiefly at \$13.25 to \$13.60. Some good to choice feeder lambs at Ogden were moved at \$13 to \$13.50.

WOOL AND HIDE TRADE

By H. W. F.

RECENT TRADING ON THE BOSTON wool market has been spotted and rather quiet. Offerings were rather limited, although there were some sales made of both free and Commodity Credit Corporation held fine domestic wools of good staple. Both domestic and foreign medium wools found a fair demand. Scoured South American medium grade wools were sold at firm to slightly higher prices for use for lend-lease. Delivery date of some government orders was extended and that had an un-

steady influence on the situation. Demand for some foreign spot wools was witnessed at prices slightly below ceilings.

Weekly average wool consumption for May on a grease basis was 18,309,000 pounds, consisting of 6,145,000 pounds domestic and 12,164,000 pounds foreign. Total consumption of grease wools for the period July, 1942, to May, 1943, inclusive, was 873,385,000 pounds, of which 440,261,000 pounds was made up by domestic and 433,124,000 pounds by foreign.

Approximately 10,000,000 pounds of domestic wool was appraised for purchase by the Commodity Credit Cor-

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**BUY WAR SAVINGS
BONDS AND STAMPS**

poration during the second week of August, making a total for appraisals to mid-August of around 100,000,000 pounds. This is about double the amount appraised up to a month earlier.

Buyers for manufacturers and top-makers have been inspecting appraised wools and making occasional purchases of lots suitable for specific purposes. A pool of wool in Virginia was purchased at a grease price of 55½ cents. Much of the foreign wool arriving had been sold far in advance to manufacturers and sales on the primary markets were unimportant, as it is between seasons.

CIVILIANS MAY GET MORE WOOL

The stockpile of wool held by the government and its Allies is large and is causing some concern to wool growers. This stockpile is estimated around 700,000,000 pounds but by some it is placed up to 1,000,000,000 pounds. Accumulation of this stockpile was a necessity because of the urgent and definite needs for the armed forces, as the government was faced with an uncertain shipping situation. Recent successes in the different war theaters have eased up the stoppage of shipping. Undoubtedly more wool will be released for civilian use in the near future and more consumer goods should be made available.

Lots of wool appraised in Boston by the CCC included the following: Montana fine average staple light, 57 per cent shrinkage, 50.74 cents; fine average, 61 per cent shrinkage, 46.62 cents; half staple, 53 per cent shrinkage, 55.46 cents; fine medium staple, 52 per cent shrinkage, 57.12 cents; three-eighths average light, 47 per cent shrinkage, 55.65 cents, and three-eighths and quarter staple, 48 per cent shrinkage, 53.04 cents. Colorado original bag lots fine average light, 64 per cent shrinkage, 41.40 cents; graded fine average light, 60 per cent shrinkage, 46 cents; graded half average light, 54 per cent shrinkage, 51.98; original bag half staple average, 61 per cent shrinkage, 44.85 cents, and graded three-eighths staple light, 50 per cent shrinkage, 53 cents.

Fleece wools of medium grade on the average were about 1 per cent lighter than normal this year. Some of the appraised lots were as follows: Graded Ohio fine staple average, 62 per cent shrinkage, 45.98 cents; short average, 66 per cent shrinkage, 38.42 cents; half staple good, 57 per cent shrinkage, 49.45 cents, and three-eighths staple average, 47 per cent shrinkage, 55.12 cents. Some Indiana and Missouri three-eighths staple light, 47 per cent shrinkage, made 55.12 cents, with quarter staple light, 44 per cent shrinkage, 53.76 cents. Graded Minnesota three-eighths staple average, 48 per cent shrinkage, went at 54.08 cents, and quarter staple average, 45 per cent shrinkage, at 52.84 cents.

Some graded fine staple territory wool at Boston made \$1.14 to \$1.16, clean basis, for average lots and up to \$1.18 for choice. Some sales of scoured Texas wools were noted at \$1.19.

Uneasiness was reported in the mohair market as contracting of the fall clip slowed down. Some contracting was carried on at 56 to 57 cents for adult, 61 cents for third shearing, and 76 to 77 cents for kid. Sales of sorted mohair for future delivery were indicated at 93 cents for 32's and 85 cents for 28's.

Wool shorn or to be shorn in 1943 is estimated at 376,822,000 pounds, according to a preliminary report issued August 13 by the Department of Agriculture. This quantity is 4 per cent smaller than the record production in 1942 and amounts to a decrease of 15,500,000 pounds. Nevertheless, as compared with the ten year (1932-41) average, the 1943 figure is up about 11,000,000 pounds, or 3 per cent.

Average weight of wool per sheep shorn is practically the same as in 1942 at 7.90 and 7.88, respectively, and the decrease in production was caused by the shearing of over 2,000,000 fewer sheep in 1943.

Production in the native or fleece wool states is estimated at 107,680,000 pounds against 112,751,000 pounds in 1942. Shorn wool production in the 13 western wool states was 269,142,000 pounds as compared with 279,622,000 pounds a year earlier.

The number of sheep shorn or to be shorn is below last year in all the states except South Dakota. An allowance of 7,557,000 pounds was made for fall wool to be shorn in Texas, and an allowance of 3,144,000 pounds in California. These fall allowances are included in the estimated production for the western states.

The average price received by farmers in the first three months of the selling season (April-June) was about 1 cent a pound higher than a year earlier.

HIDE MARKET UNCHANGED

Production of heavy hides is at the season's low point. There is no abundance of hides of any kind currently but the take-off should increase shortly with increasing shipping of range cattle in the period just ahead. There is nothing of consequence to report on the hide market, as conditions have not changed in many weeks. Light and heavy steer and cow hides are quoted at 15½ cents, branded at 14½ cents, and native bull hides at 12 cents. Packer kipskins were placed at 20 cents and packer calfskins at 27 cents.

Country hide trade was also quiet and only the better hides were moving with any freedom. Quality was not very good and demand proved only fair. Native hides of all weights and also extremes, 28 to 42 pounds, were taken at 15 cents, while branded offerings made 14 cents.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

	Aug. 1, 1943†	July 1, 1943	Aug. 1, 1942	Five-Year Av.
Frozen Beef	80,601,000	74,504,000	66,375,000	39,379,000
Cured Beef*	8,406,000	7,240,000	16,272,000	12,569,000
Lamb and Mutton, Frozen	9,637,000	7,808,000	5,487,000	3,181,000
Frozen Pork	203,358,000	212,651,000	129,065,000	171,735,000
Dry Salt Pork*	159,794,000	128,096,000	119,538,000	100,251,000
Pickled Pork*	178,412,000	173,037,000	184,944,000	214,984,000
Frozen and Cured Trimmings	115,490,000	99,938,000	109,391,000	77,992,000
Lard	210,791,000	205,416,000	87,831,000	201,066,000
Rendered Pork Fat	28,362,000	15,415,000	10,518,000	-----†
Frozen Poultry	38,592,000	25,379,000	79,346,000	72,105,000

*Previously included with lard. *Cured or in process of cure. †Figures shown subject to revision. These holdings include stocks in both cold storage warehouses and meat packing house plants.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEATS

FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—

	New York Aug. 16, 1943	New York July 14, 1943	Chicago Aug. 17, 1942	
Steer and Heifer—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$21.50-22.25	\$21.50-21.87	\$20.50-22.00†	
Steer and Heifer—Good	20.50-21.25	20.50-20.87	19.00-20.50†	
Steer and Heifer—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	21.50-22.25	21.50-21.87	20.50-22.00†	
Steer and Heifer—Good	20.50-21.25	20.50-20.87	19.00-20.50†	
Yearling Steer and Heifer—Choice	21.50-22.25	21.50-21.87	20.50-22.00	
Yearling Steer and Heifer—Good	20.50-21.25	20.50-20.87	19.00-20.50	
Cow—Commercial	18.50-19.25	-----	-----	
Veal and Calf—Choice	21.50-22.25*	21.50-21.87*	21.00-22.50	
Veal and Calf—Good	20.50-21.25*	20.50-20.87*	19.00-21.00	

FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—

	26.00-26.75	26.00-26.37	24.00-26.00
Lamb—Good	24.50-25.25	24.50-24.87	23.00-25.00
Ewe—Good	13.25-14.00	13.25-13.62	11.00-13.00
Ewe—Commercial	12.00-12.75	12.00-12.37	10.00-11.00

FRESH PORK CUTS—

Loin—8-12 lbs.	25.25-26.00	25.25-26.00	27.00-29.00

†Steer only. *Veal only.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	Aug. 16, 1943	July 16, 1943	Aug. 17, 1942
Slaughter Steers—Choice (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$15.75-16.90	\$15.50-16.90	\$16.00-16.65
Slaughter Steers—Good	14.50-16.00	14.50-15.75	14.50-16.00
Slaughter Steers—Choice (900-1,100 lbs.)	15.50-16.50	15.50-16.50	15.50-16.50
Slaughter Steers—Good	14.50-15.75	14.25-15.50	14.25-15.50
Slaughter Steers—Medium (700-1,300 lbs.)	12.00-14.50	12.50-14.50	12.00-14.50
Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (700-900 lbs.)	14.50-16.50	14.25-16.25	14.25-16.00
Heifers—Good-Choice	13.75-16.25	13.50-16.00	13.00-15.50
Cows—Good	12.25-13.00	13.00-14.00	10.75-11.75
Vealers—Good-Choice	15.00-16.00	14.00-15.50	14.00-15.50
Calves—Good-Choice	12.00-14.00	12.00-13.50	11.00-13.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice	12.75-14.75	13.50-15.50	11.00-13.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	10.00-12.75	11.50-13.50	9.75-12.00
Hogs—Medium Weights (200-240 lbs.)	14.55-14.80	13.85-14.00	14.95-15.30
Spring Lambs—Good-Choice	12.75-14.90	14.50-15.50	14.50-15.10
Yearling Wethers (Shorn)—Good-Choice	12.40-13.50	13.25-14.50	11.50-12.50
Ewes (Shorn)—Good-Choice	6.35- 7.00	7.00- 7.75	5.25- 6.50

LIVESTOCK AT STOCKYARDS

RECEIPTS—	July 1943	July 1942	First Seven Months 1943	1942
Cattle*	1,221,961	1,334,504	8,613,481	8,990,260
Calves	393,850	496,499	2,658,256	3,290,004
Hogs	3,467,330	2,452,470	22,580,249	19,477,438
Sheep and Lambs	2,446,371	2,138,243	13,254,773	12,882,263
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—				
Cattle*	602,476	515,426	4,254,053	3,406,615
Calves	184,855	178,629	1,155,377	1,176,632
Hogs	944,060	584,544	5,985,857	4,891,719
Sheep and Lambs	1,141,383	1,024,058	5,803,080	5,599,882
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	205,551	190,813	1,781,901	1,518,581
Calves	58,189	51,462	346,993	415,870
Hogs	74,248	52,161	461,719	368,715
Sheep and Lambs	231,261	268,899	1,725,670	1,456,379
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—				
Cattle*	844,992	1,047,909	5,827,659	6,805,660
Calves	331,011	461,376	2,435,086	3,231,814
Hogs	5,426,963	3,885,575	35,324,248	30,812,661
Sheep and Lambs	1,987,648	1,705,209	11,379,504	10,917,738

*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

September, 1943



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ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN LIVESTOCK AND RANGE REPORT

DROUGHT IN AREAS OF THE Southwest, parts of Oklahoma, and local sections marred the otherwise good western range report for August 1 made by the western livestock office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Range feed declined seasonally with the hot, dry weather of July, but livestock continued in good condition.

Feed on ranges was reported as generally good, except in the dry sections. The seasonal decline of an average of three points—from 86 to 83 but still in the "good" bracket—was most severe in Oklahoma. Ranges had good to very good feed in Montana, the Dakotas, and western Nebraska; good in Wyoming, with dry spots in local central and southwestern parts; and good in Colorado except in dry spots in the south central area. Oklahoma ranges and pastures dried rapidly, with prospects of short feed in the eastern part. Texas had good feed, but spots in the north central and southern part were dry, while feed improved in the plains, Panhandle, and Pecos sections. New Mexico ranges improved with local rains but some dry spots were reported and rain was needed. Arizona continued dry. Feed was short except in local areas favored with rain. Range feed was good in Oregon and Washington. Idaho's high ranges had good feed but low ranges were dry. Nevada range feed was good. High ranges in Utah were reported good but low ranges were dry, with short feed. California showed above average condition, with good feed on pastures and fields. High and mountain ranges had good feed. Range feed started curing in many sections. Conditions were not so good as a year ago in the southern Great Plains and the Southwest and were below a year ago in the Far West.

Cattle continued in good to very good condition except in dry areas. Movement of grass animals was generally light during July. Cattle were making good gains, and there was uncertainty as to developments. There was little activity in country contracting and buying. Reports indicated that fall marketings will be larger than in 1942. The run of grass cattle should show good weights and finish.

Like cattle, sheep were in good to very good condition except in dry areas. Late lambs in the North made good gains. Texas lambs and sheep held well in spite of some dry feed in the sheep section. New Mexico sheep and lambs have done well and should gain with improved feed from recent rains. Early lambs made good gains in the North-

west, but the movement from Idaho, Oregon, and Washington was much below a year ago. Texas reported a heavy July movement, with a large number of ewes going to market. Contracting of feeder lambs was rather limited.

WHEN TO MARKET YOUR RANGE CATTLE

GIVE YOUR CATTLE THE BEST chance to make top gains, and then market them to the best advantage. That is the suggestion of the Department of Agriculture in a booklet devoted mainly to a summary of the "best time to market" in the western range country.

If drought or other cause prevents expected gains, market the animals at once, the booklet warns. Normally watch for the time when cattle reach the peak condition. This, of course, will vary. In the West it depends on such factors as type of range, age of animals, current forage-growth conditions, degree of stocking, and supplemental feeding.

The booklet, which is entitled "Market Your Range Cattle in the Best Condition," gives the following information on seasonal cattle gains from the investigations of federal and state agencies to provide a guide to aid ranchmen in judging when to market:

ON THE NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

In normal years on conservatively grazed range in this area, cattle gain well through September but tend to lose weight early in October. It may well pay to hold steers until the end of September.

In dry years, such as 1939, weight gains will not justify holding cattle on the range longer than early September.

On heavily grazed or overstocked ranges, maximum gains do not hold up beyond late August; the cattle must be marketed at that time to avoid losses.

At the U. S. Range Livestock Experiment Station, Miles City, Mont., on typical short-grass range, dry cows gained rapidly from mid-May through June into early July, at the rate of 2 to 3 pounds per day. Thereafter, as the forage became drier, gains fell to something like half a pound a day until early September. Holding them longer proved wasteful. During the late summer and fall, weights were barely held and frequently decreased.

Cows with calves also gained rapidly during May and June, but later lost some weight even where they had ample forage. Weight losses were more pronounced by mid-September.

Calves, except in drought years, reached maximum weights at the Miles City station in late October, but might

more profitably have been marketed earlier. On conservatively grazed range, calves were heavier, continued moderate gains for a longer period, and could be marketed later than on overgrazed range.

Similar results with various classes of cattle have been obtained on state and federal experimental range areas in northern Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, and northeastern Colorado.

ON THE SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

Most rapid gains are made during the green-forage period from mid-April or May to mid-July. In years with late rains, worth-while gains are resumed in the late summer and may continue for a month or more.

Sonora substation, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, found that successive weighings of a group of Texas cattle for 30 months from birth followed the same general annual pattern, maximums coming about mid-October, most rapid gains from mid-April to mid-July. Losses in mid-January to early March were suffered in both years shown.

IN THE SOUTHWEST

Gains in cattle weight are made mainly through July, August, and September, the rainy season in this region. On normal range, sales may even be delayed until the middle of October. Thereafter there are few gains and probable shrinkage.

On overgrazed range, peak weights are obtained earlier, and shrinkage is more rapid than on conservatively stocked range.

Animals wintered on the range and held for spring sale should ordinarily be disposed of before the critical dry spring period when forage is short, little or no grass grows, and serious losses in weight occur. The occasional but unpredictable wet spring with high forage production is not a dependable provider of range forage.

The Arizona Experiment Station found, during a five-year period, that calves made greatest gains generally from July to October, inclusive, with a marked leveling off in November. Feeding cottonseed cake to cows during the winter was of slight benefit in the calf weights, and then only in some years. Calf weights were considerably lower in drought years.

IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

On conservatively grazed mountain ranges in the Intermountain region cattle gained normally until mid-September or early October.

On heavily stocked mountain brush range in southern Utah, however, very slow gains were made by dry cows and yearlings after July, when the grass forage was fully grazed and only the less palatable brush was left. Calves gained steadily until October 1, but at the expense of their mothers.

IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

On high summer ranges, where the

forage begins to dry by mid-August or early September and cattle gains taper off, midsummer round-ups should be considered for disposal of animals reaching best condition at that time.

In southeastern Oregon, on the high desert, where rains are very light and consequently green forage is scant or absent from June to August, cattle make best gains before July and are largely disposed of then as stockers or feeders.

IN CALIFORNIA

On mountain ranges in California, maximum weights make marketing advisable on the average by mid-September. However, in the dry year of 1939, practically no cow gains were made on an experimental range after August 10.

On foothill ranges in the Great Central Valley, where the forage is mainly annual plants, rains come and forage starts some time after October 1. The most rapid growth period and the best forage is in the spring during March and April. Gains taper off as the forage dries during June and July, and cattle to be marketed should be sold by then. Losses occur in August.

On the San Joaquin Experimental Range it was found practicable to maintain the breeding herd in thrifty condition yearlong by supplemental feeding to make up for the protein deficiencies of the range forage during the dry summer season. Such feeding resulted in higher calf crops and earlier calves that weighed 430 to 500 pounds when weaned at seven to eight months of age.

LETTERS

AWARE OF THE STRUGGLE

To the American National Live Stock Association: Due to the need of more effort and your increasing expenses, I am increasing my dues. I run only 140 head of registered cows and am not a wealthy breeder, but I am aware of the struggle you are making on behalf of all of us.—H. B. THURBER, Santa Cruz County, Ariz.

IN CLOVER

Lots of hail and high winds here; wonderful crops; pastures knee high in grass; bumper hay crop. A few days of real hot weather hurt some crops, but summer-fallowed ground looks like 30 to 50 bushels of wheat per acre. Cattle, especially Herefords, surely are fat.—TED POPE, Bowman County, N. D.

It has finally rained in this country and we all feel better. Will have to have a lot more though if we are to have feed this winter.—FRANK S. BOICE, Sonoita, Ariz.

It has been hot and dry here, but the stock looks good. We are still hoping for rain.—J. R. JOHNSTON, Fall River County, S. D.

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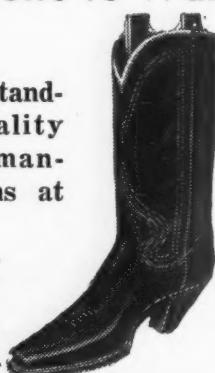
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ON THE SIDE

IRON HORSE: They've got jeeps doing everything but cook for the Army; but they found out recently in Cheyenne, Wyo., that one thing a jeep can't do (at least, not yet) is take the place of the horse at roping. Brigadier General H. L. Whittaker, commandant of Fort Warren just outside Cheyenne, furnished one of the mechanical broncs and an expert driver to lend a bit of military color to the performances. As a part of the experiment, Ide Rude, expert roper from Pawhuska, Okla., lassoed a Texas steer from a standing position in the back of a jeep. So far, so good, but the jeep went too far, thereby showing up the glaring flaw in its education. Instead of giving way as a trained cow pony would do, it didn't. Since it would be neither practical nor in keeping with the rubber-short times to use elastic rope at a rodeo, the upshot of the affair was a broken lariat—and, no doubt, a lot of extra fun for the onlookers.

PIGGY'S PAPERS: Something new in the way of a census has been initiated by the Nazis in occupied Belgium. It entails orders for each owner of one or more pigs to turn in a complete record regularly of the status of each animal. He must himself keep a "pig card" fully up to date, and must report births, deaths, slaughterings, sales, purchases, exchanges, transfers, or any other changes. Death of a pig must be certified by the proper authority who witnessed destruction of the carcass. In this way the Nazis hope to know at all times just where every little pork chop is.

BETTER MEASURE EARS, TOO: Foreign Commerce Weekly carries a story about a Norwegian coastal town where restaurants frequented by the Germans began unexpectedly to serve rabbit meat—a treat, however, which was reserved for the Germans exclusively. The Nazis guzzled happily until somebody awoke to the fact that the cats of the town were disappearing with a weird consistency. The Germans, after putting two and two together and getting cat meat for an answer, issued an edict that restaurants were not to dish up rabbit meat without express approval of the occupying authorities; that the Nazis would buy the rabbits—but only if the bunnies were still wearing their own fur coats.

CHILLY CHERRIES: "Frozen cherries cease to be frozen cherries when they are no longer frozen." That was the decision of OPA officials in Tulsa, Okla., when a fruit dealer appealed to them after a breakdown in a cooling system unfroze a carload of cherries. In line

with this conclusion, the price administration office ruled that ration points, ordinarily required for frozen fruits, do not have to be collected in the event of a thaw.

SUBTLE SIMPLICITY: In accordance with a recently inaugurated policy which calls for a simplification of price-fixing regulations, the OPA reworded in the following fashion an order concerning prices on certain bakery products: "All commodities listed in appendix A are those known to the trade as such excepting therefrom such therefrom, if any, while subject to other regulations."

CONVERSION WITH A VENGEANCE: The wonders of the machine age grow ever more wondrous. It is disclosed that machines which used to produce steak tenderizers are now turning out motorcycle crank cases. It is possible that after the war any machine which cannot perform a half dozen or more distinctly unrelated duties will be regarded as not worth the grease it takes to run it.

A commentary on the modern-day passion for entangling and involving an issue instead of going straight to the point, has been neatly offered by Lord Beaverbrook in the English House of Lords. "You cannot," he states blandly, "milk a cow by a committee. A cow has only got four teats."

A customer complained to her butcher because the bologna he had sold her was meat at one end and bread at the other, to which that harried gentleman replied that "These days it's pretty hard to make both ends meet."

What'll You Have— Rare, Medium, or Well Done?

Lend-lease destinations and the armed forces are being furnished a new kind of synthetic beefsteak that satisfies every purpose of taste and nutrition as efficiently as the natural meat, it is said. Anheuser-Busch, Inc., of St. Louis, is manufacturing the product out of a combination of brewers yeast, molasses, and water, which is treated with ammonia to convert the yeast to protein and then allowed to stand 12 hours, after air has been stirred in to complete the process. The new beefsteak, which is a vitamin-filled food costing but a fifth of the price of beefsteak, is the result of experiments conducted by Dr. Carl C. Lindegren, working on an Anheuser-Busch fellowship at Washington University. While the product is not being made for retail sale at the present time, it is planned to continue its distribution widely after the war.